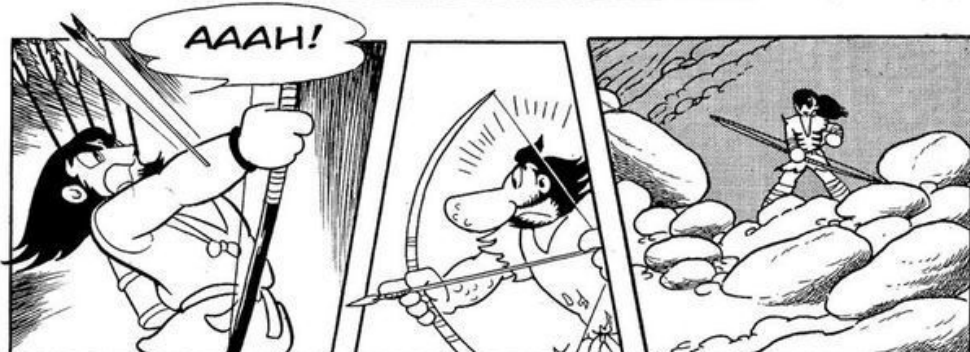
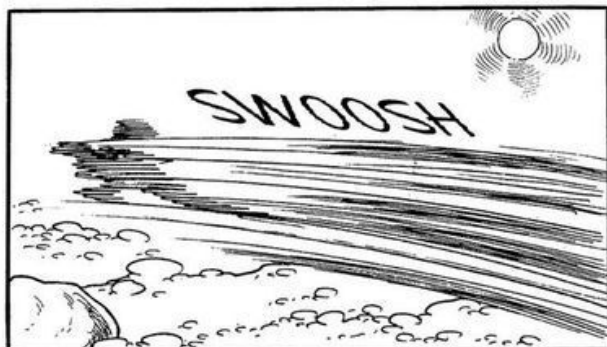




ZIP

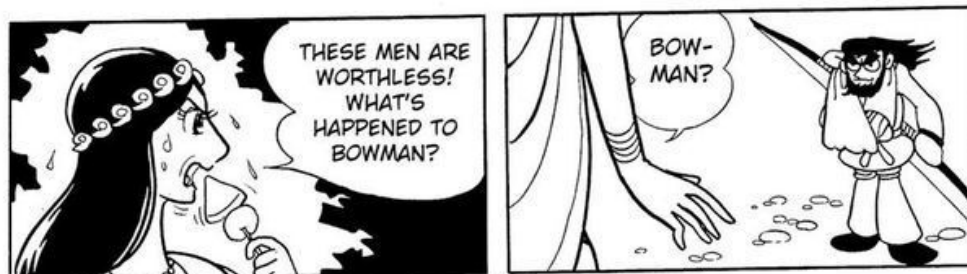


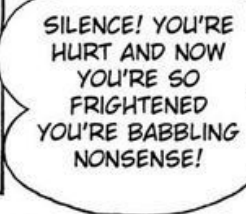
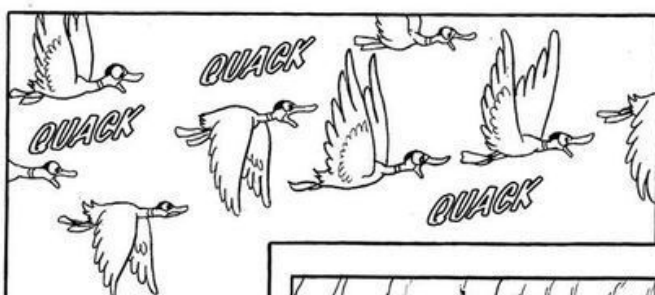
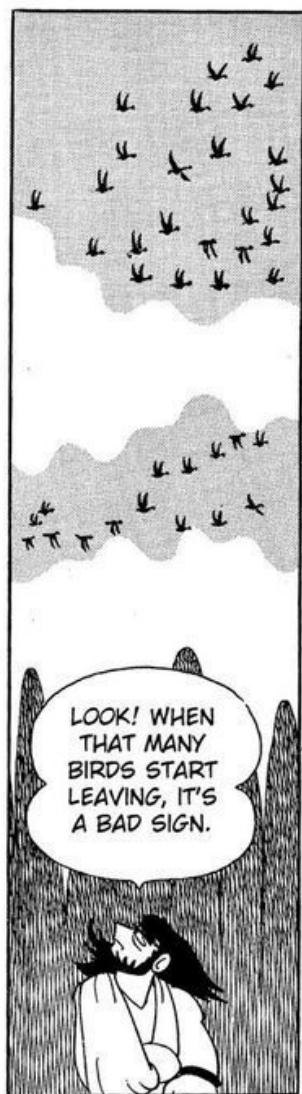










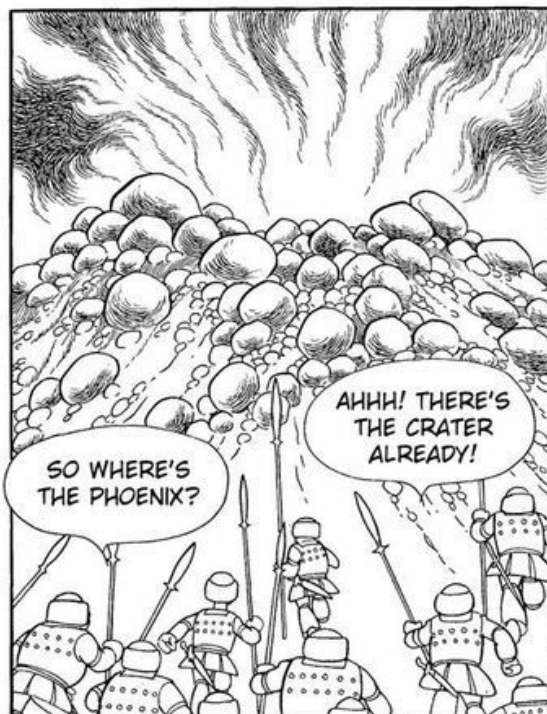
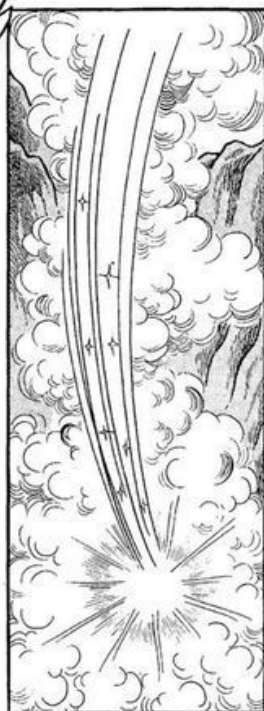




So the humans  
have finally  
come.

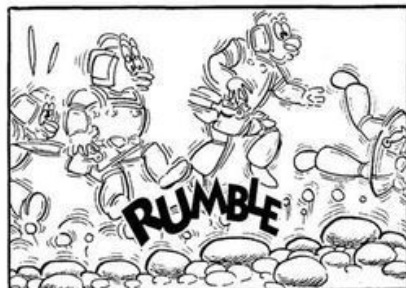


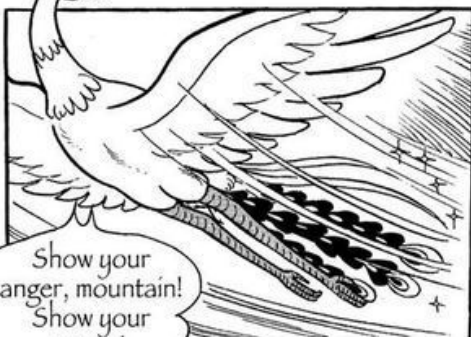
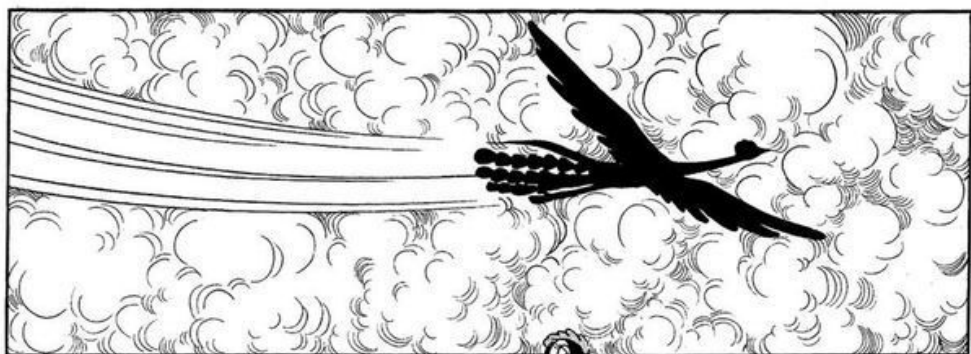
How foolish they  
are! They don't  
even know this  
mountain is about  
to explode in fire!



SO WHERE'S  
THE PHOENIX?

AHHH! THERE'S  
THE CRATER  
ALREADY!





Show your  
anger, mountain!  
Show your  
anger!

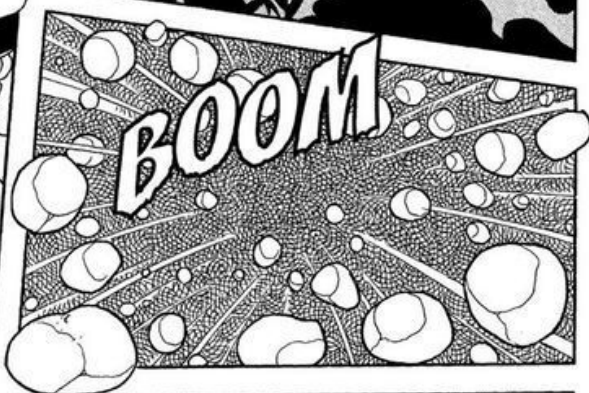


**КА-ВООМ**

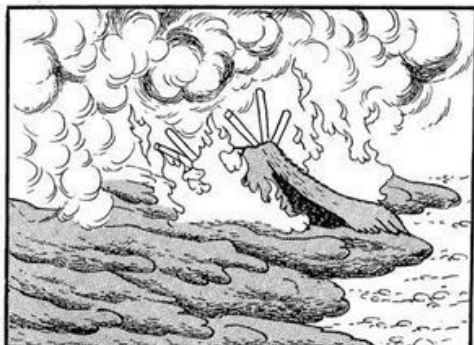
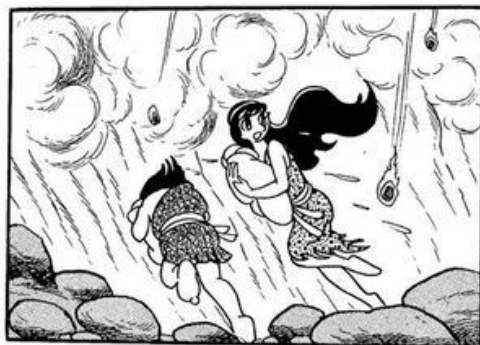




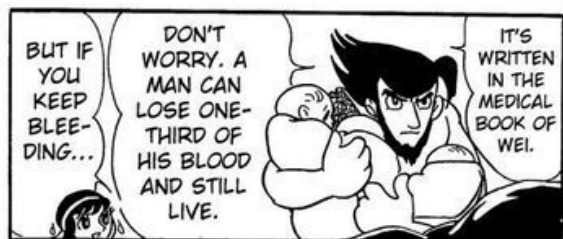








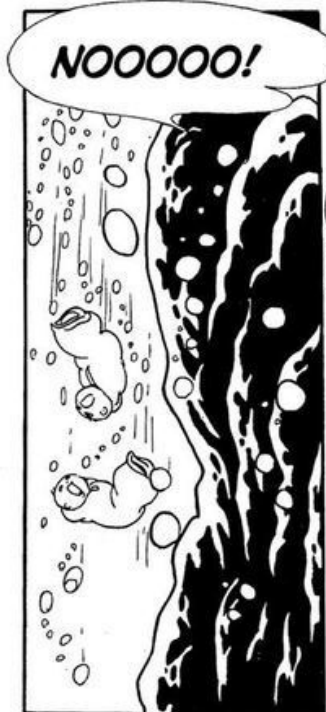


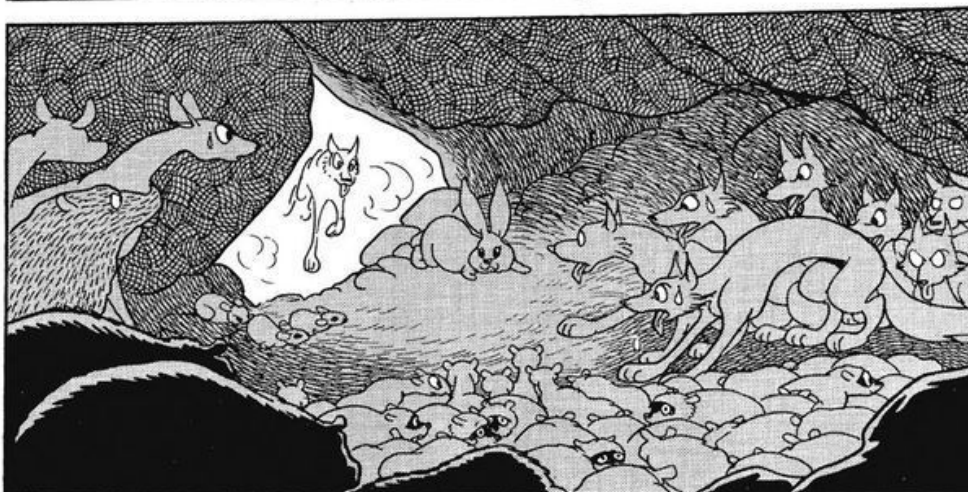
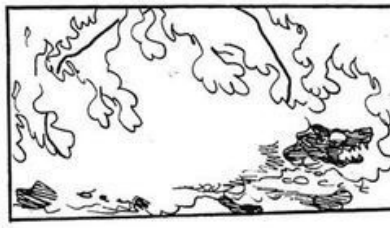
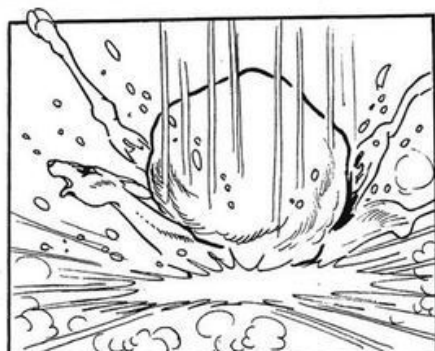




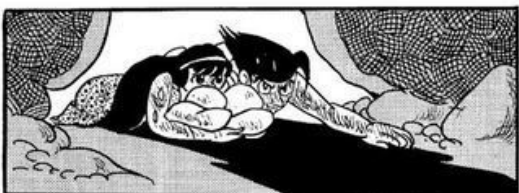
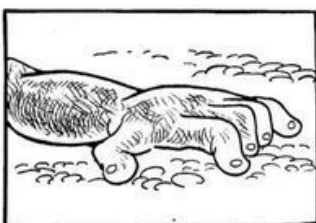




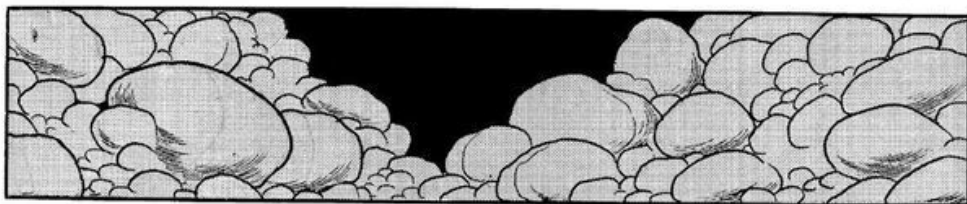












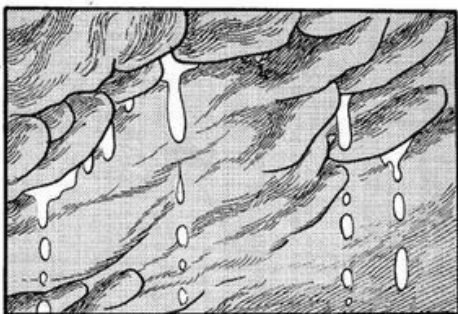
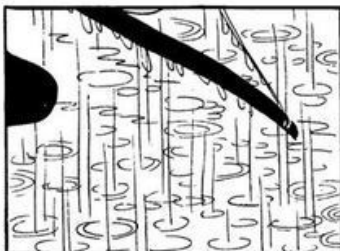


AS SUPER-HEATED  
VOLCANO VAPORS  
ROSE INTO THE  
ATMOSPHERE,  
FORMING RAIN  
CLOUDS, THUNDER  
BOOMED AND  
TORRENTIAL RAINS  
FELL, ONLY TO MEET  
THE BOILING LAVA AND  
BE SENT STEAMING  
SKYWARD AGAIN...A  
BATTLE BETWEEN FIRE  
AND WATER THAT HAS  
BEEN REPEATED FOR  
MILLIONS OF  
YEARS....

SHAA  
SHAA







SOB!

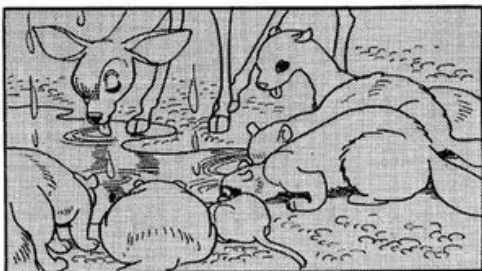
STOP  
CRYING  
HINAKU!



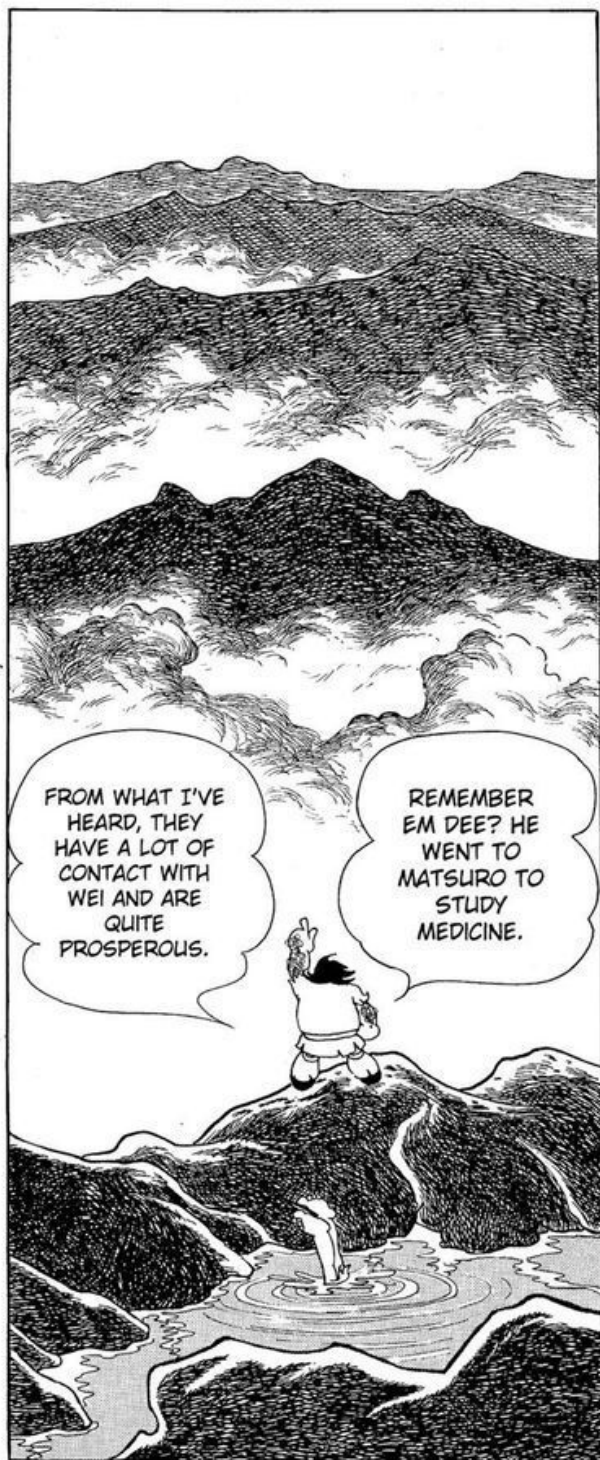
EACH TEAR  
YOU CRY  
WASTES  
PRECIOUS  
WATER.

IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO CRY,  
SAVE YOUR  
STRENGTH TO  
MAKE MILK FOR  
THE BABIES,  
UNDERSTAND?









FROM WHAT I'VE  
HEARD, THEY  
HAVE A LOT OF  
CONTACT WITH  
WEI AND ARE  
QUITE  
PROSPEROUS.

REMEMBER  
EM DEE? HE  
WENT TO  
MATSURO TO  
STUDY  
MEDICINE.



SAY,  
ARE  
YOU  
LISTEN-  
ING TO  
ME?



YOU KNOW, I  
SERVED HER  
MAJESTY  
FOR THIRTY  
YEARS. LIKE  
YOU, I  
LIVED  
FOR ONE  
IDEAL.



FOR  
THIRTY  
YEARS I  
WASTED  
MY LIFE.

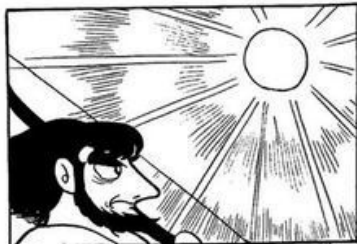
AND WHAT  
DO YOU  
SUPPOSE  
I'VE GOT  
LEFT?

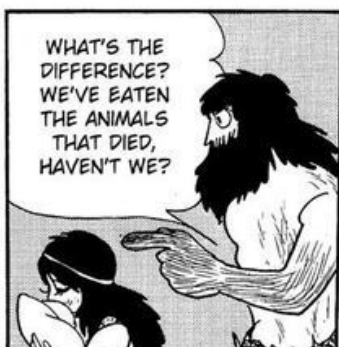
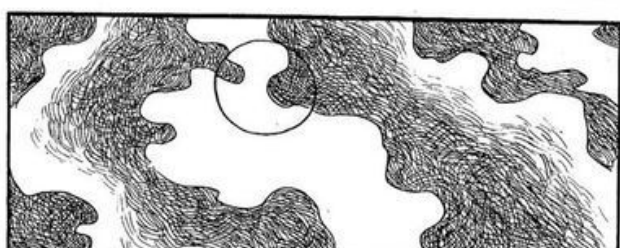
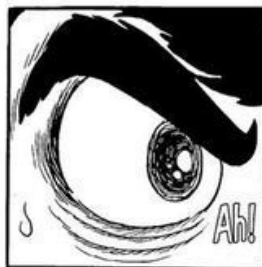


ONLY MY  
OWN  
STUPIDITY,  
THAT'S  
WHAT.

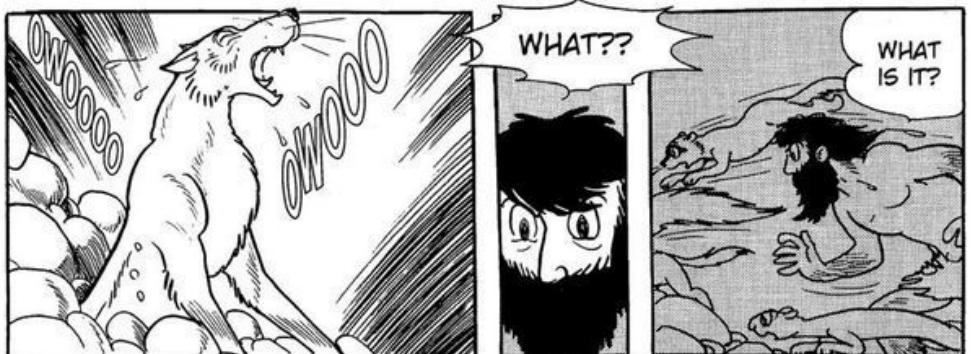
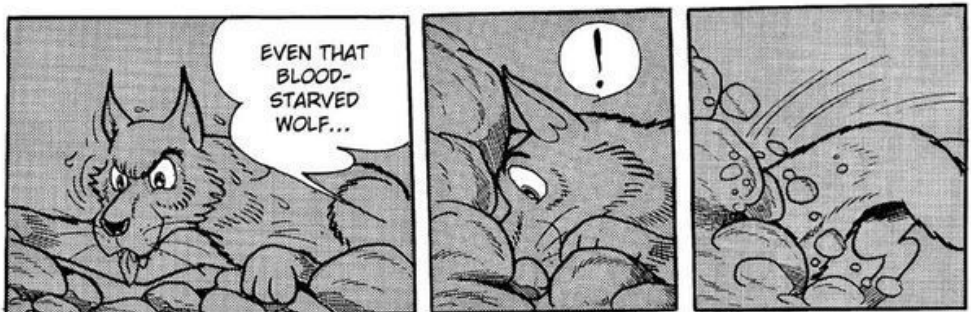
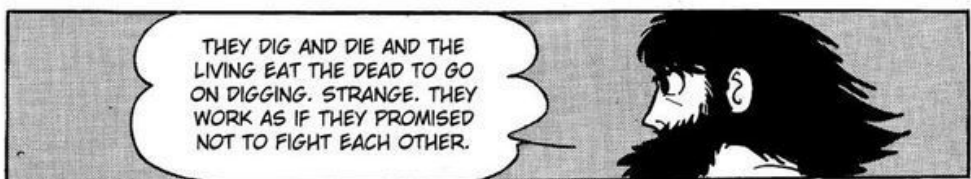


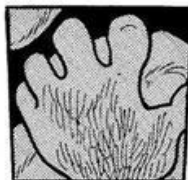








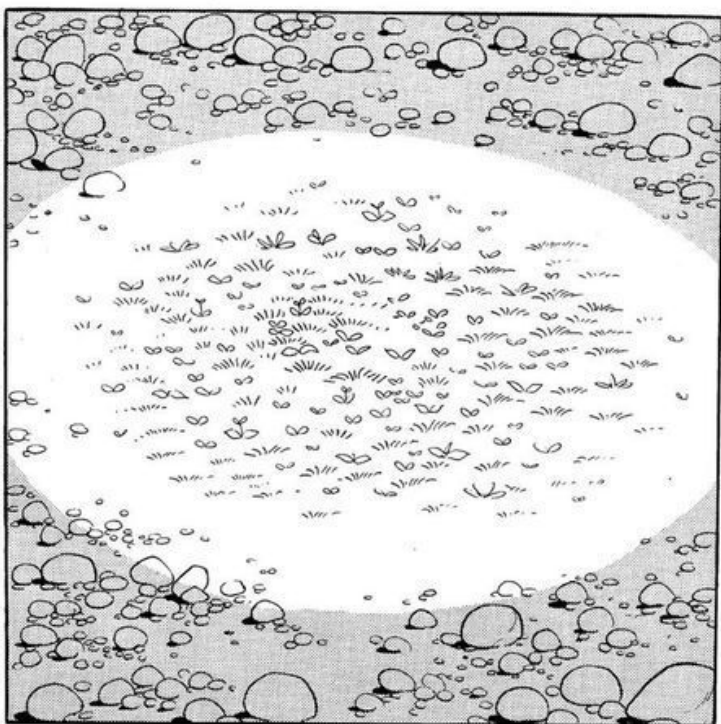
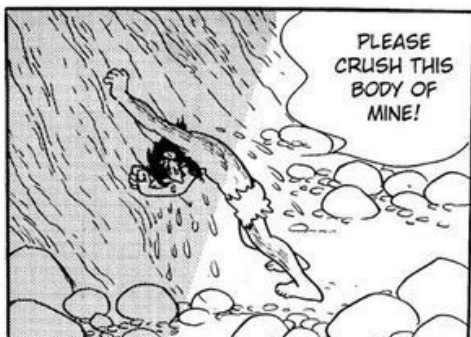




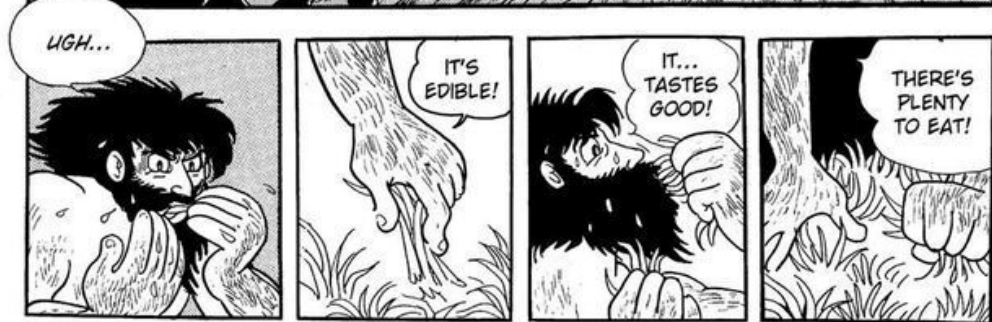




STRIKE ME  
DOWN NOW!  
OH TOWERING  
WALL...

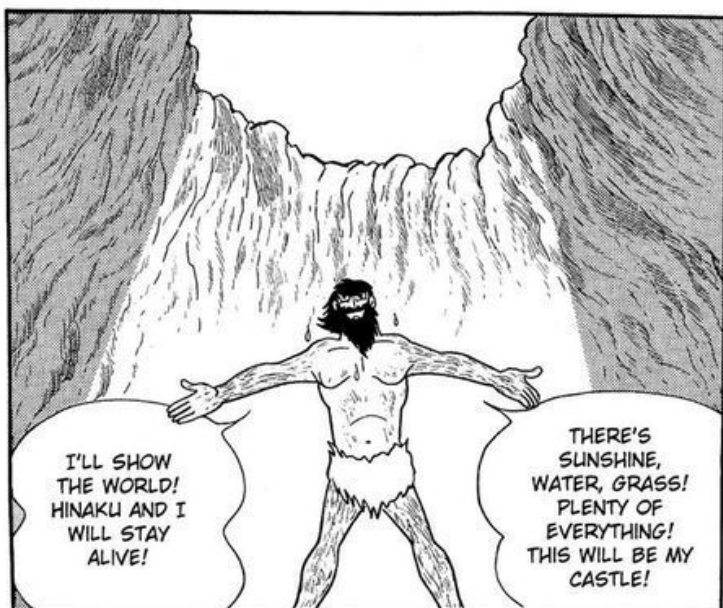






EM DEE STUFFED HIS MOUTH, CHEWED AND SWALLOWED, THEN REPEATED THE PROCESS AGAIN.

THE LIGHT SHONE THROUGH THE OPENING OVERHEAD, BATHING EM DEE AND THE CRATER FLOOR IN ITS WARM RAYS, AND SEEMED TO CALL FORTH A NEW STRENGTH, A NEW WILL TO SURVIVE.





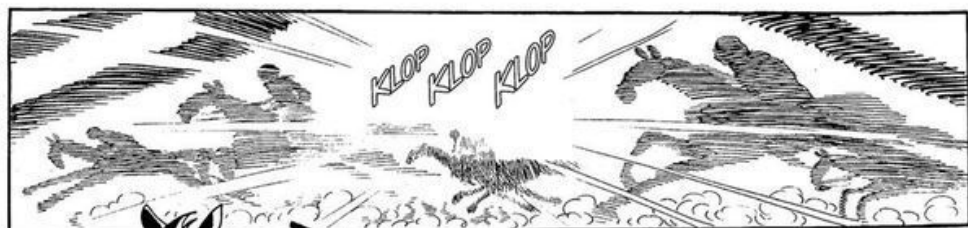


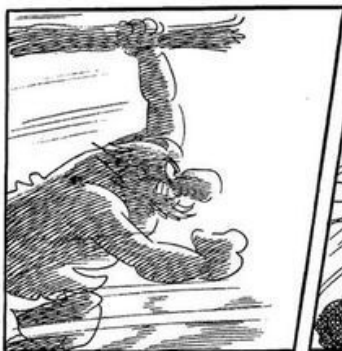
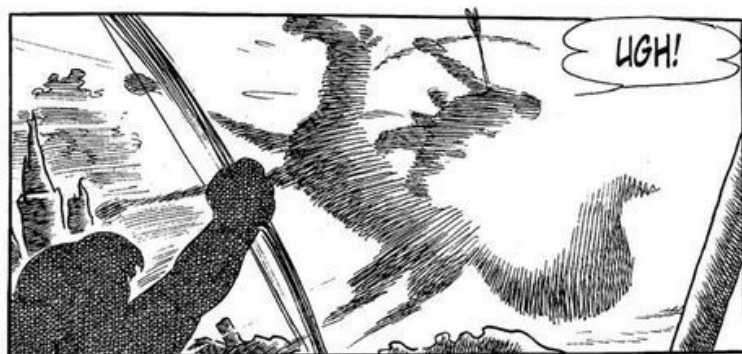
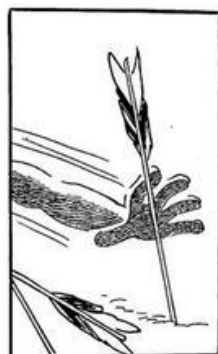
BY SOME STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, BOWMAN, IN SEARCH OF THE PHOENIX, SAT SILENTLY WAITING FOR DAYS ON END ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE PIT IN WHICH EM DEE WAS TRAPPED.



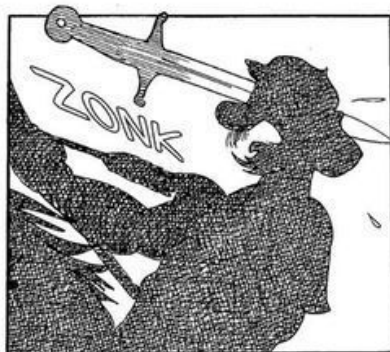
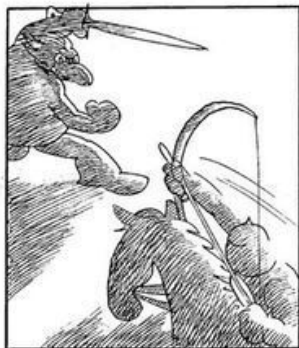
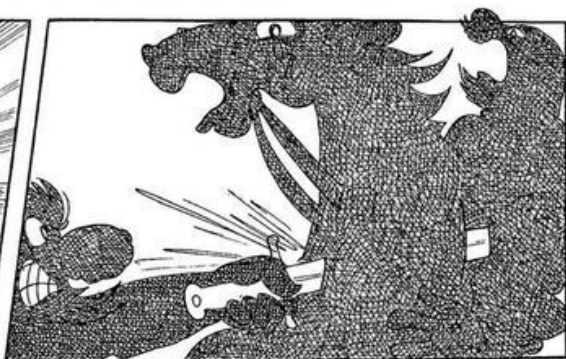
AND AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER HUNTER OF THE PHOENIX WAS FLEEING FROM THE FIRE MOUNTAIN TO THE NORTH... NAGI.





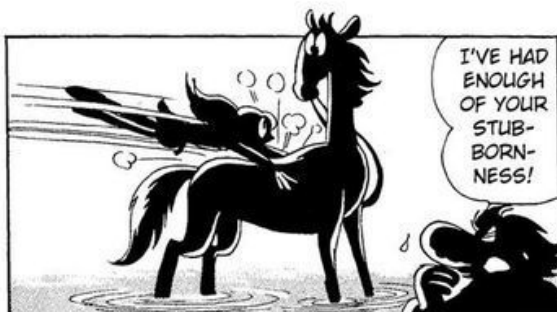
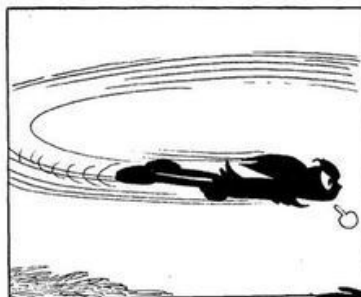




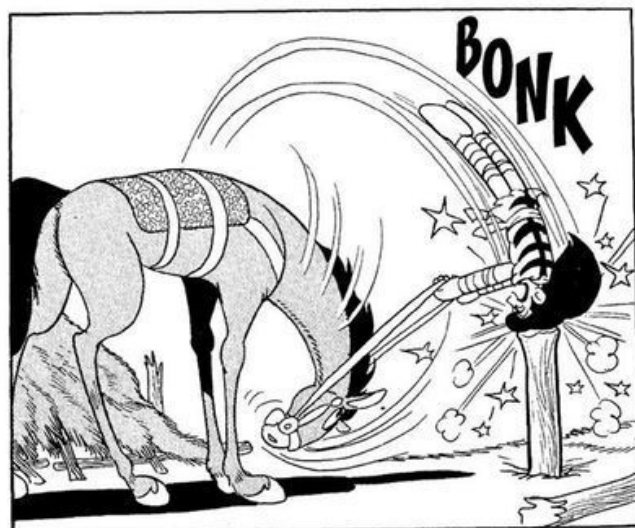




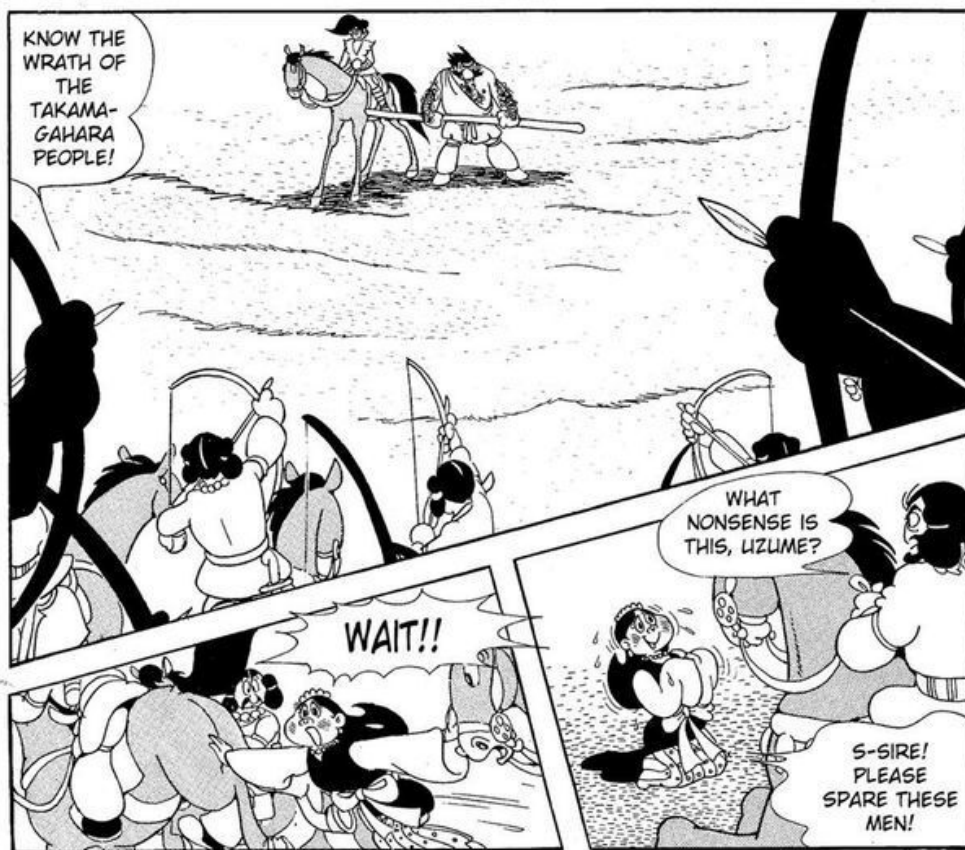
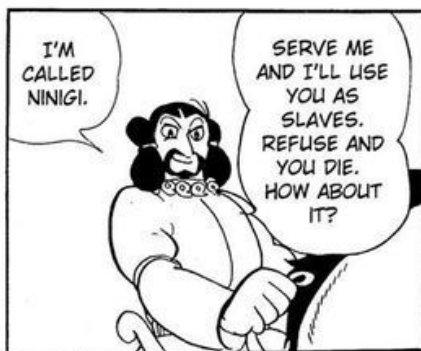


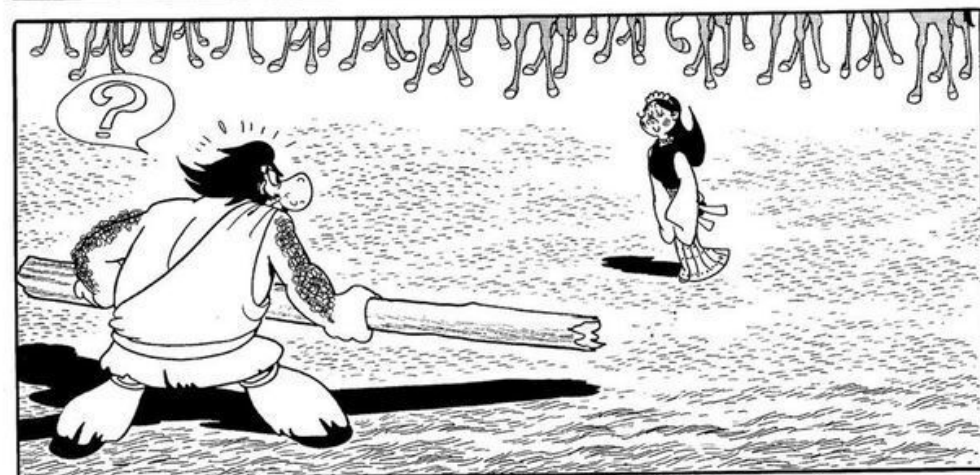
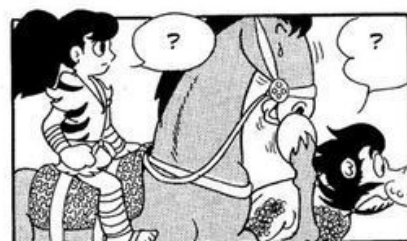


ORIGINALLY THERE WERE NO HORSES ON THE ISLANDS THAT COMPRISE JAPAN. THEY WERE ANIMALS FROM THE CONTINENT AND WERE BROUGHT OVER LATER BY MEN—PROBABLY MONGOLS, WHO HAD USED THEM FOR THEIR MANY INVASIONS ON THE PLAINS OF ASIA. THESE HORSEMEN CROSSED OVER FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA TO THE TSUSHIMA SANI AND NORTHERN KYUSHU AREAS OF JAPAN.

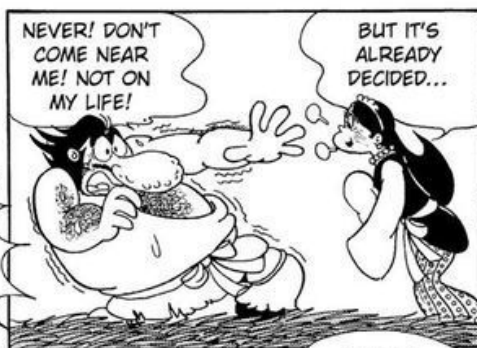


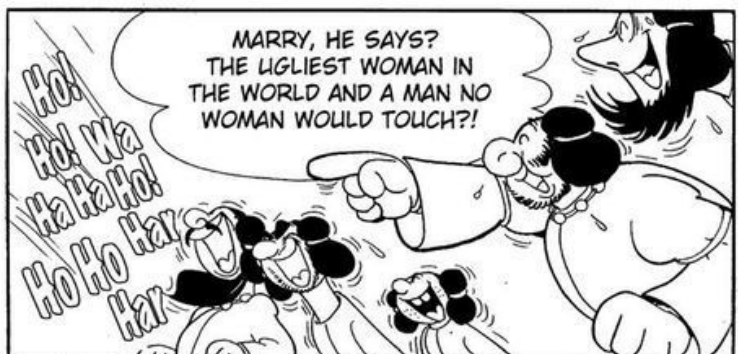


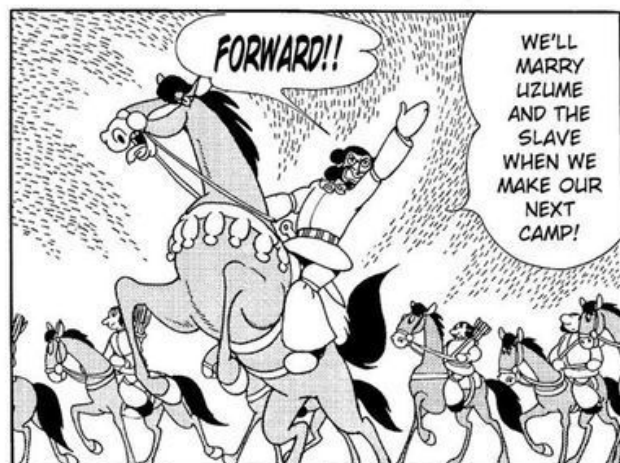
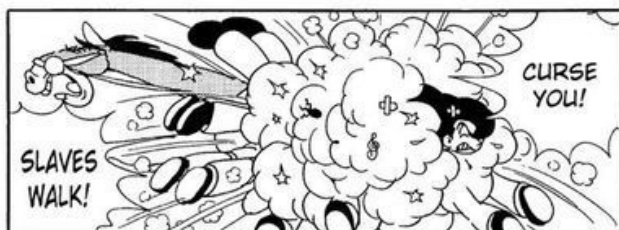
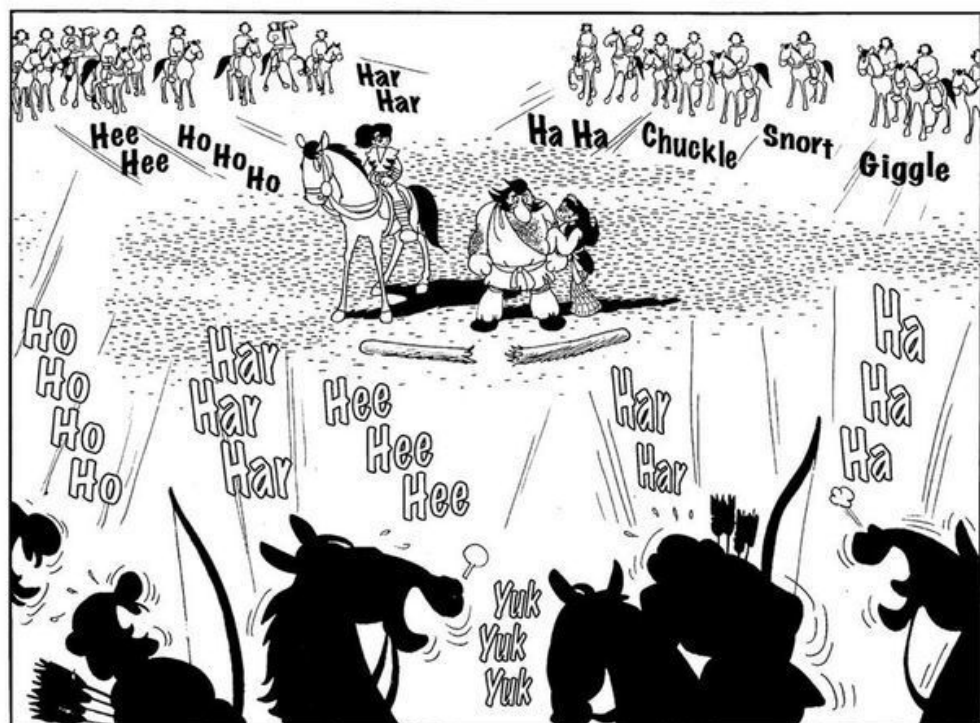








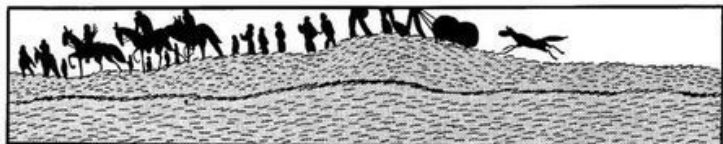
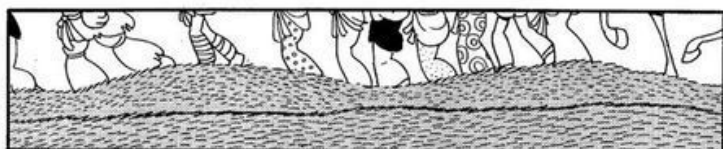
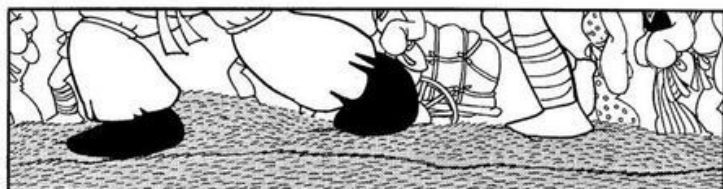
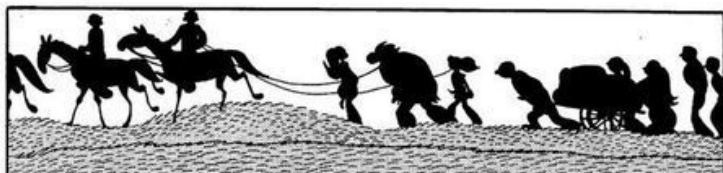


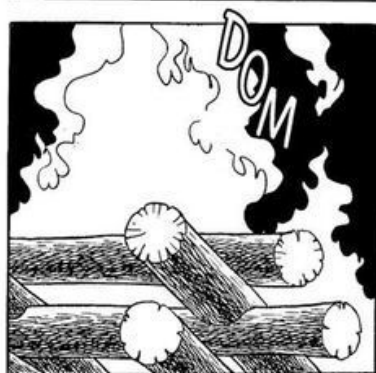


WHO WAS NINIGI AND HIS BAND?

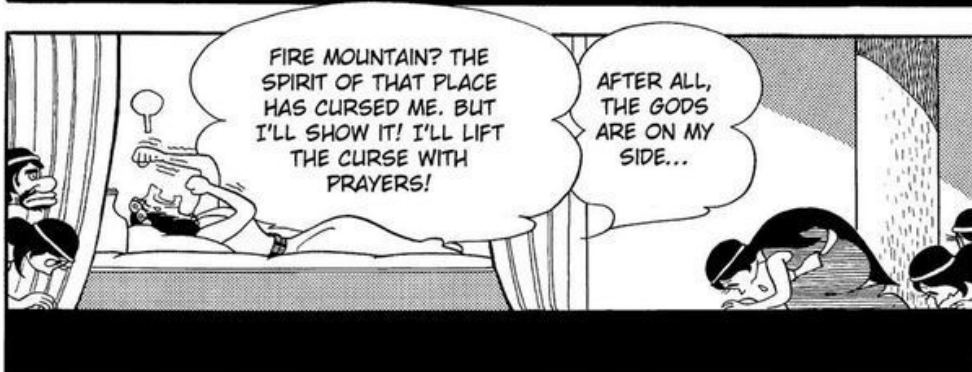
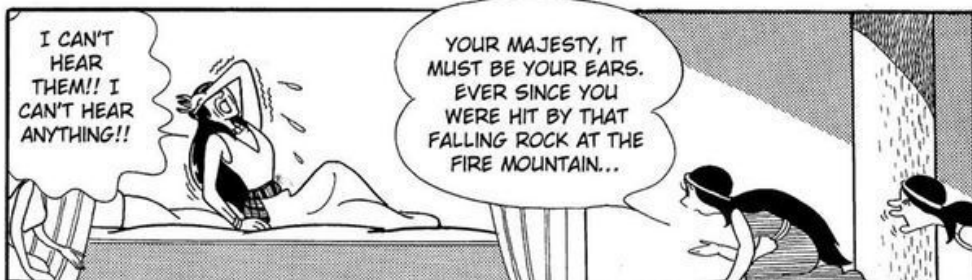
SCHOLARS THEORIZE THAT THE TAKAMAGAHARA PEOPLE WERE A MOUNTED TRIBE—A HORSEBACK NATION—THAT WAS ACTIVE IN THE REGIONS OF NORTHERN CHINA AND MONGOLIA FROM THE THIRD TO THE FIFTH CENTURY A.D., AND THAT THEY CAME THROUGH THE KOREAN PENINSULA IN LARGE NUMBERS TO INVADE THE ISLANDS OF JAPAN. THE NATIVE INHABITANTS WERE SUBDUED ONE BY ONE AND EVENTUALLY THE STATE OF YAMATO WAS ESTABLISHED WITH EMPEROR JIMMU AS ITS HEAD.

ACCORDING TO JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, NINIGI WAS A GOD WHO DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN TO MOUNT TAKACHIHO, BUT IN REALITY HE WAS PROBABLY CHIEF OF A NOMADIC TRIBE.



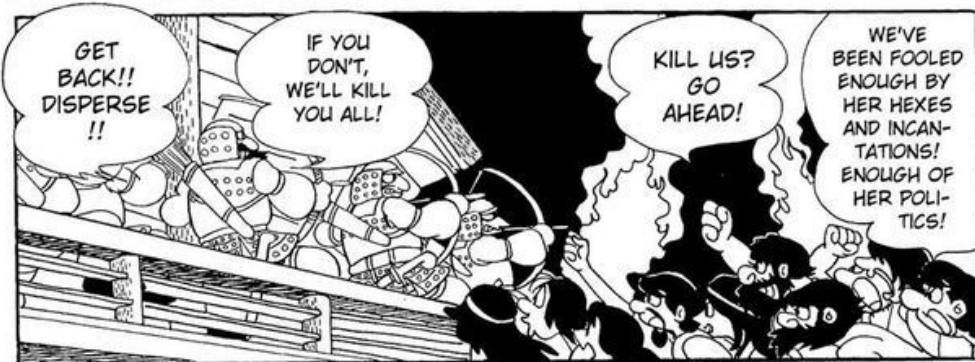
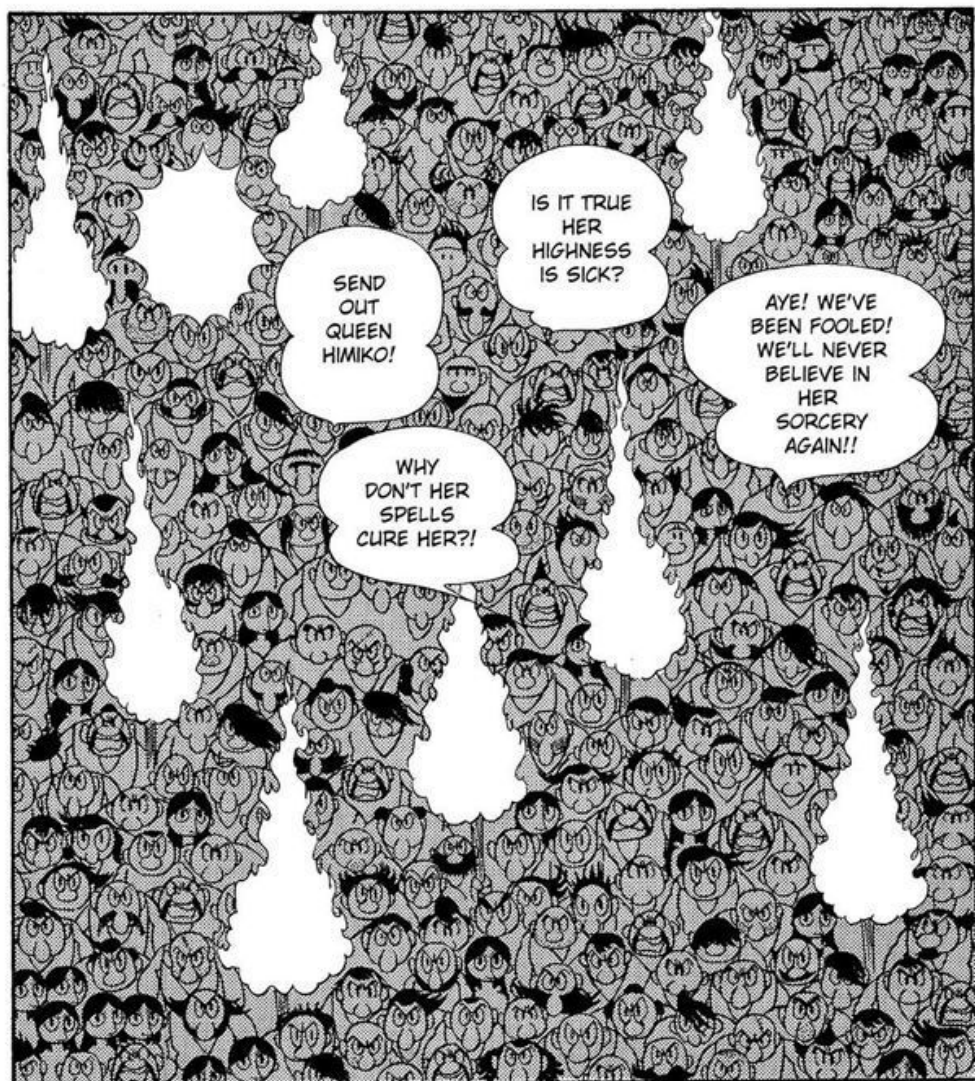


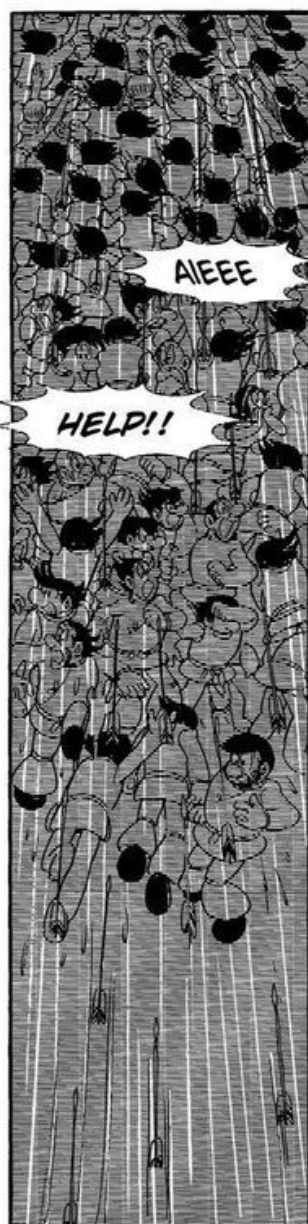
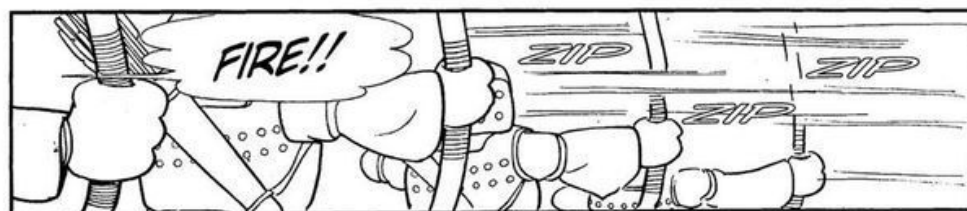




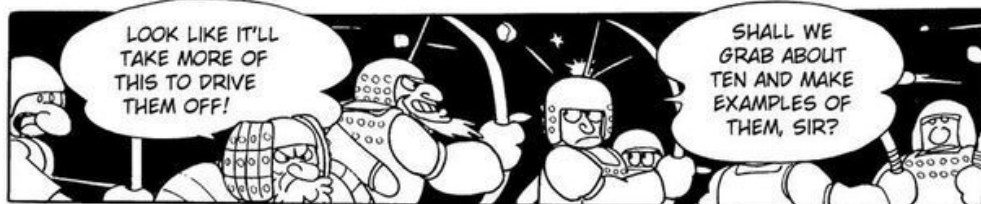
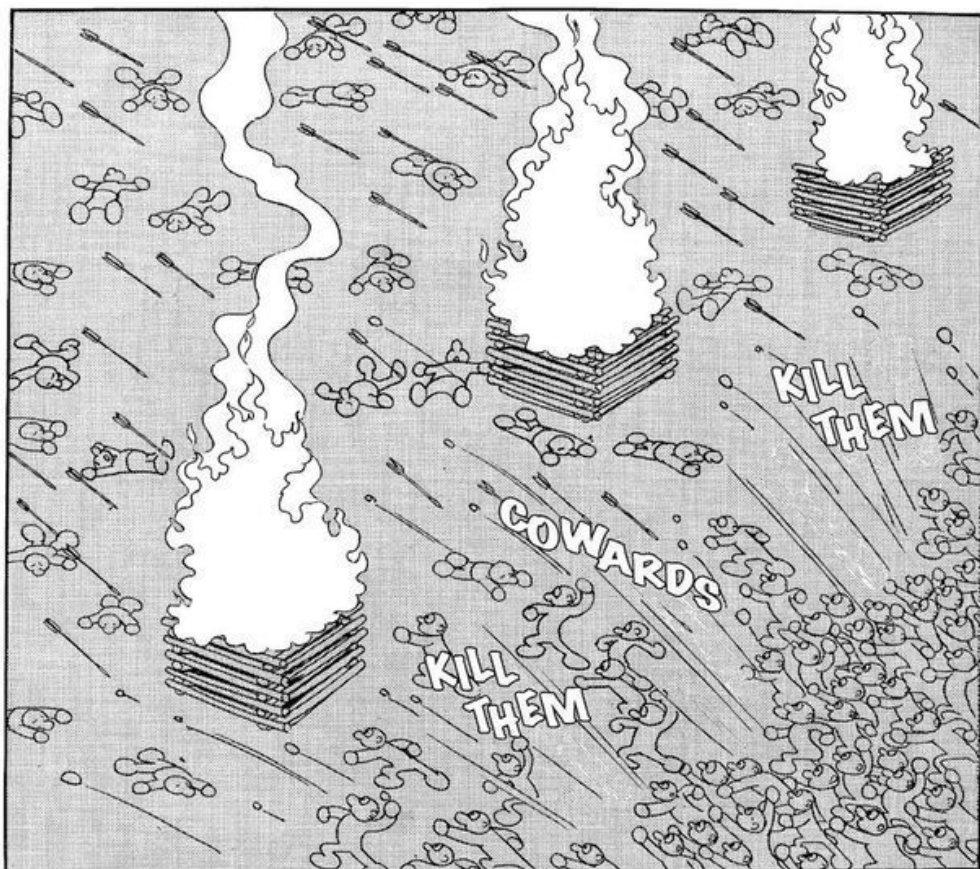


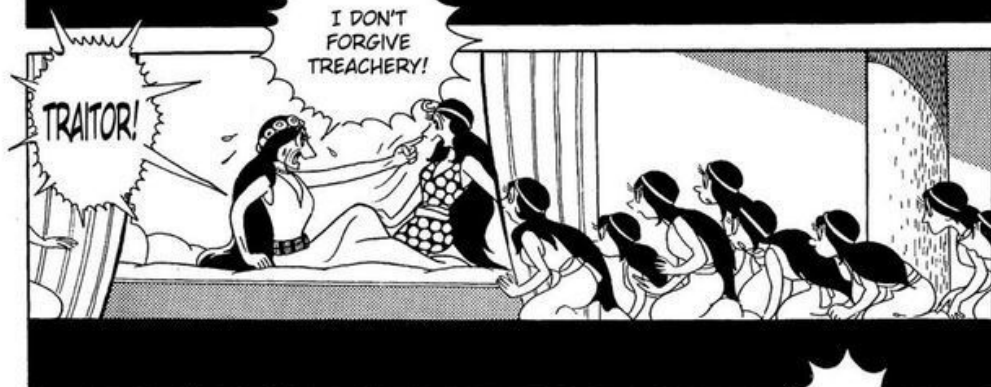


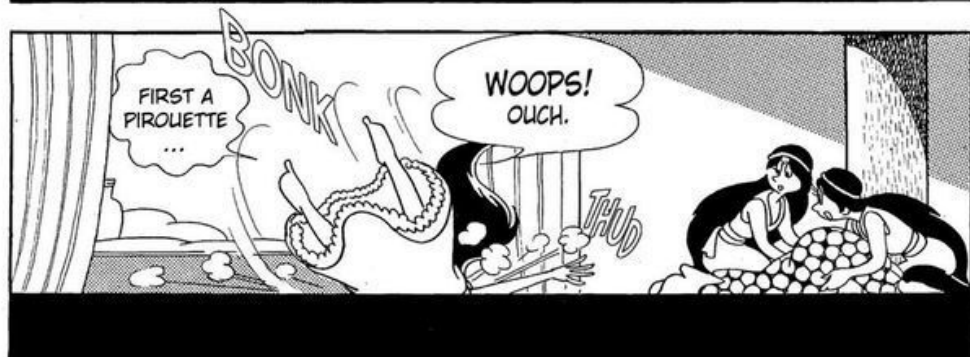


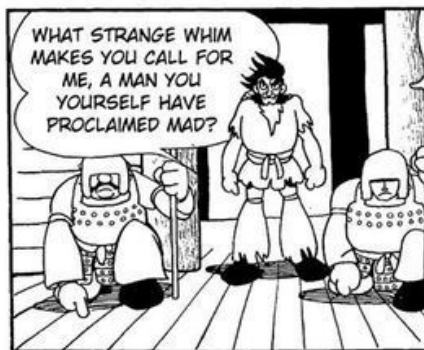
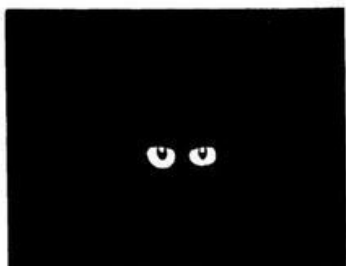






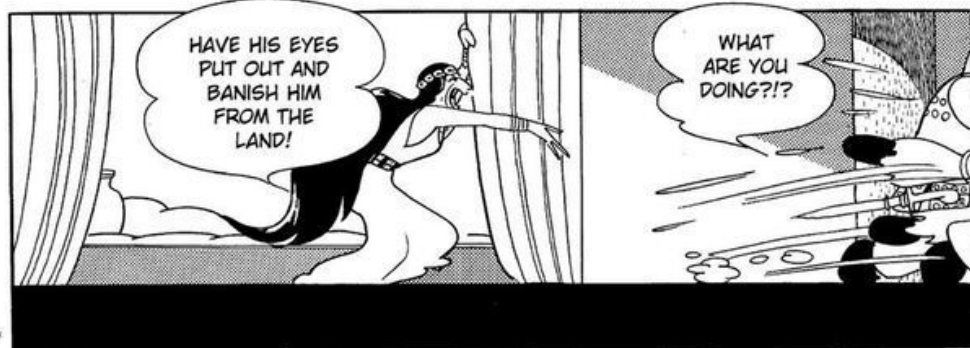
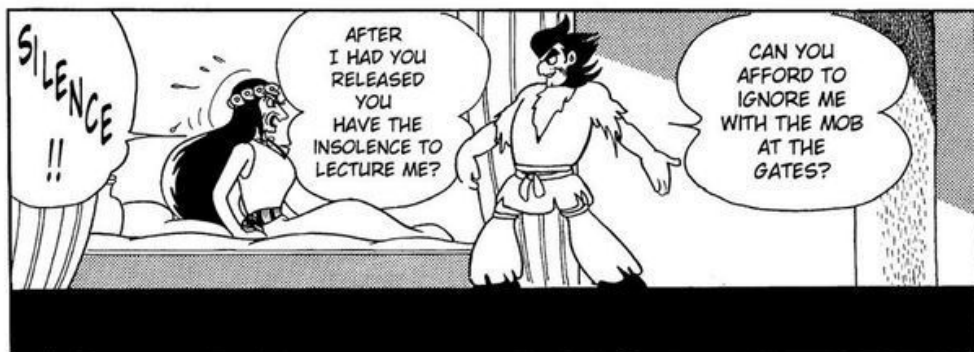


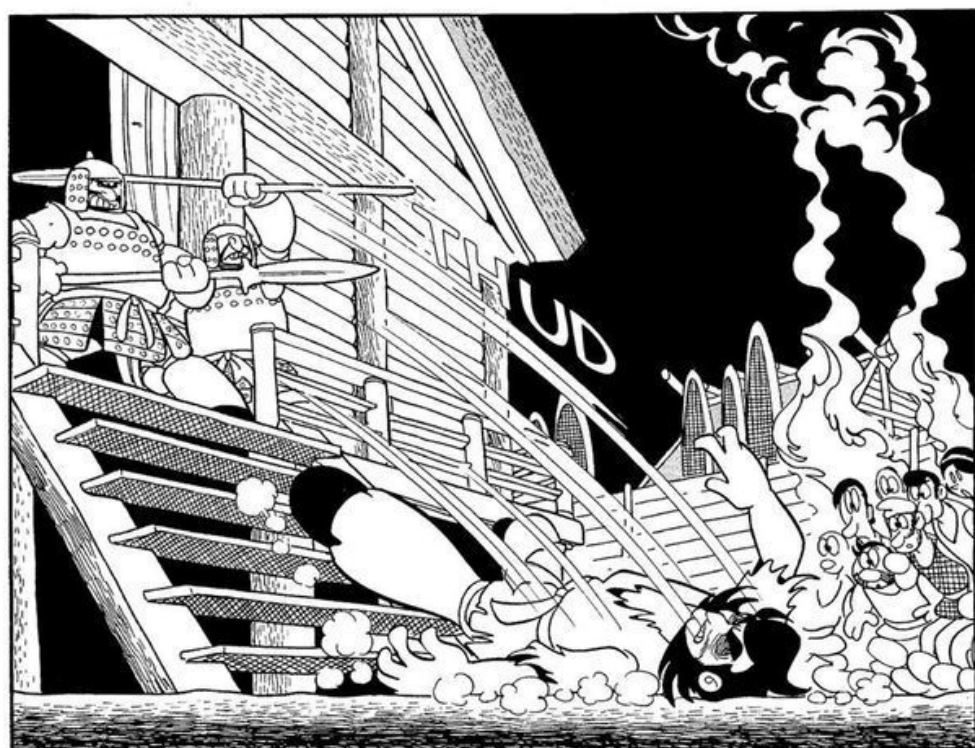
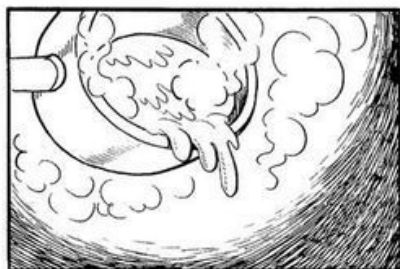


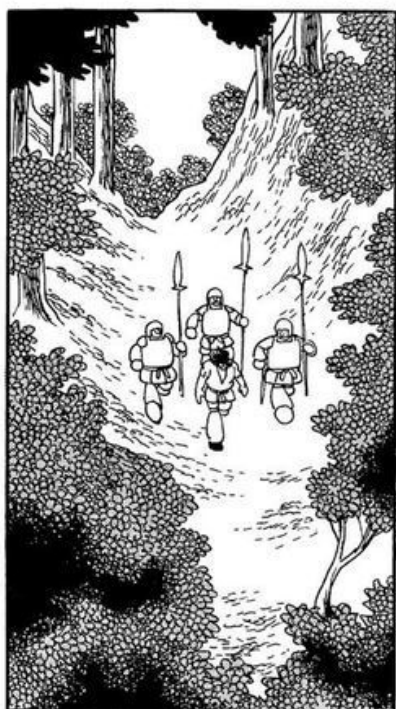


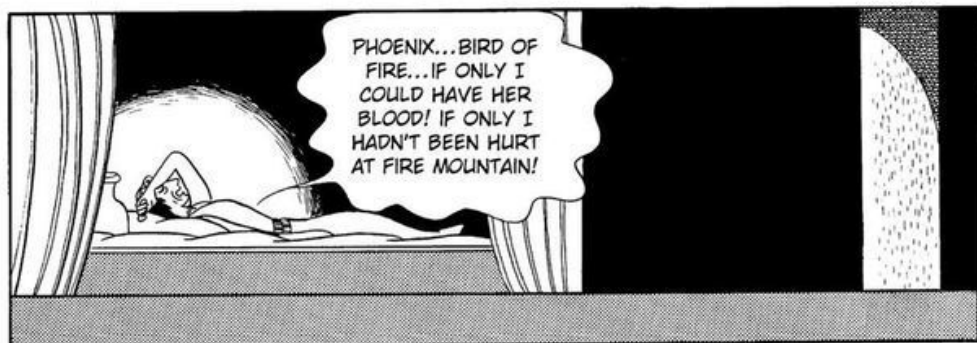


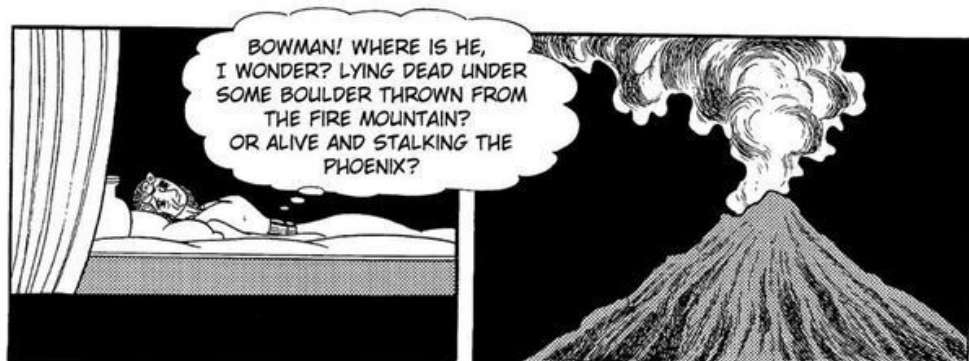




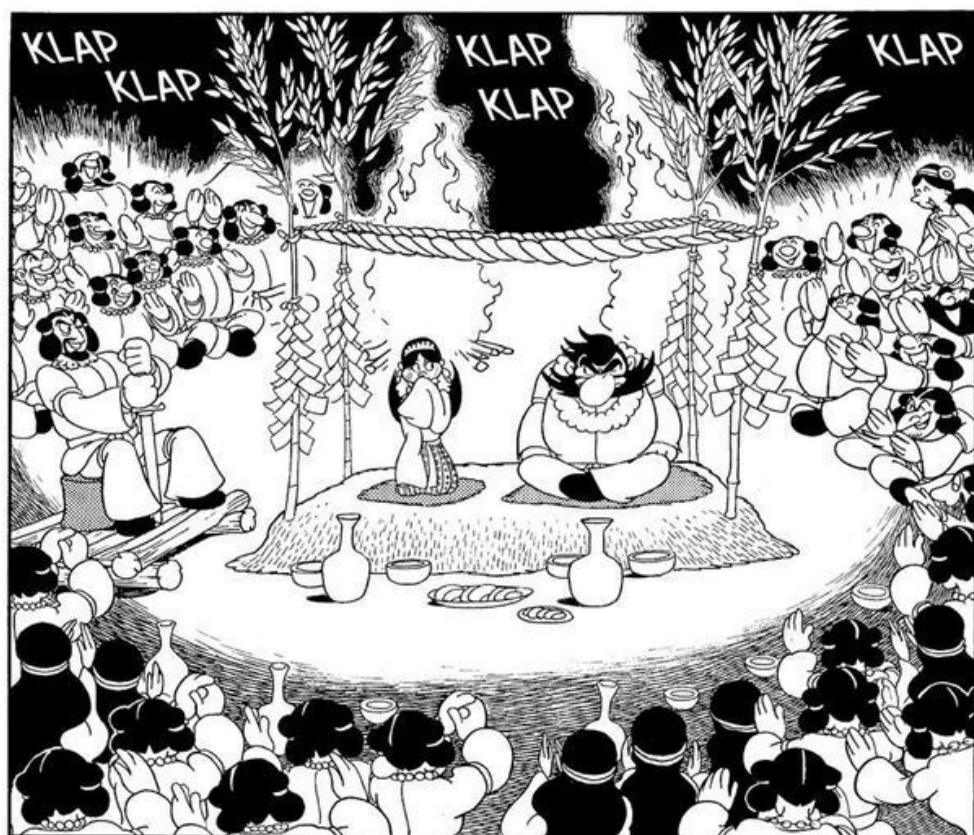










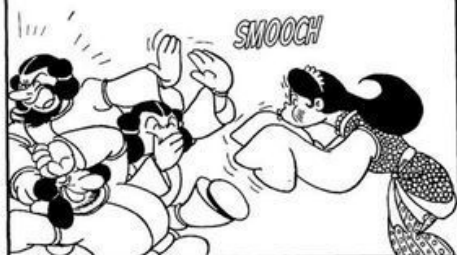








IF A GIRL IS UGLY ENOUGH, NO MAN  
WILL LAY A HAND ON YOU.



IF I'D BEEN BEAUTIFUL,  
NINIGI WOULDN'T HAVE  
GIVEN ME TO YOU.  
HE'S A MAN WHO GETS  
WHAT HE WANTS.



AS I TRAVELED WITH THEM, I  
HOPED I'D FIND SOME KIND OF  
HAPPINESS.



BUT UZUME,  
WHY DID YOU  
SAVE ME?

WHY DID  
YOU  
MARRY  
ME?



BECAUSE WE WERE  
ABOUT TO BE KILLED,  
OR OUT OF PITY,  
RIGHT?  
HOW STUPID!!



NO!  
THAT'S  
NOT  
WHY!



I REALLY  
DON'T HAVE  
ANY  
REASON.

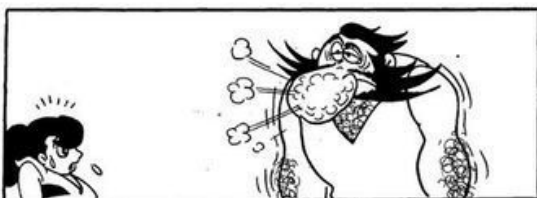
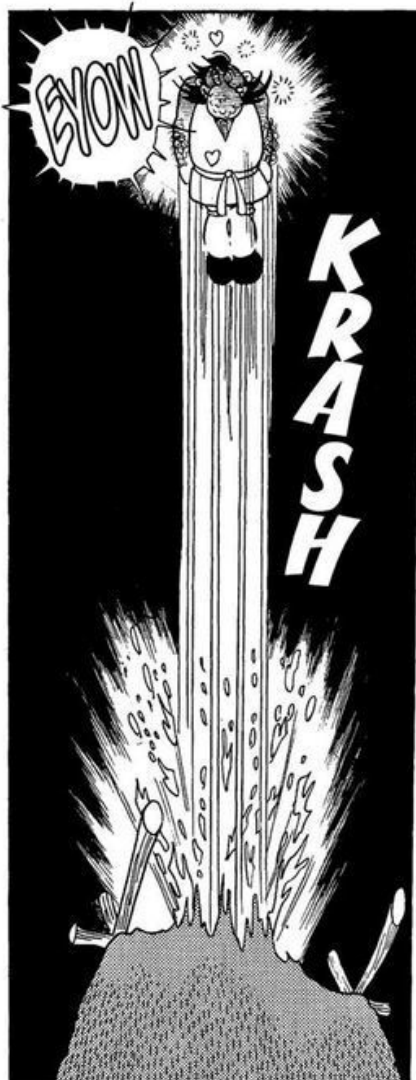


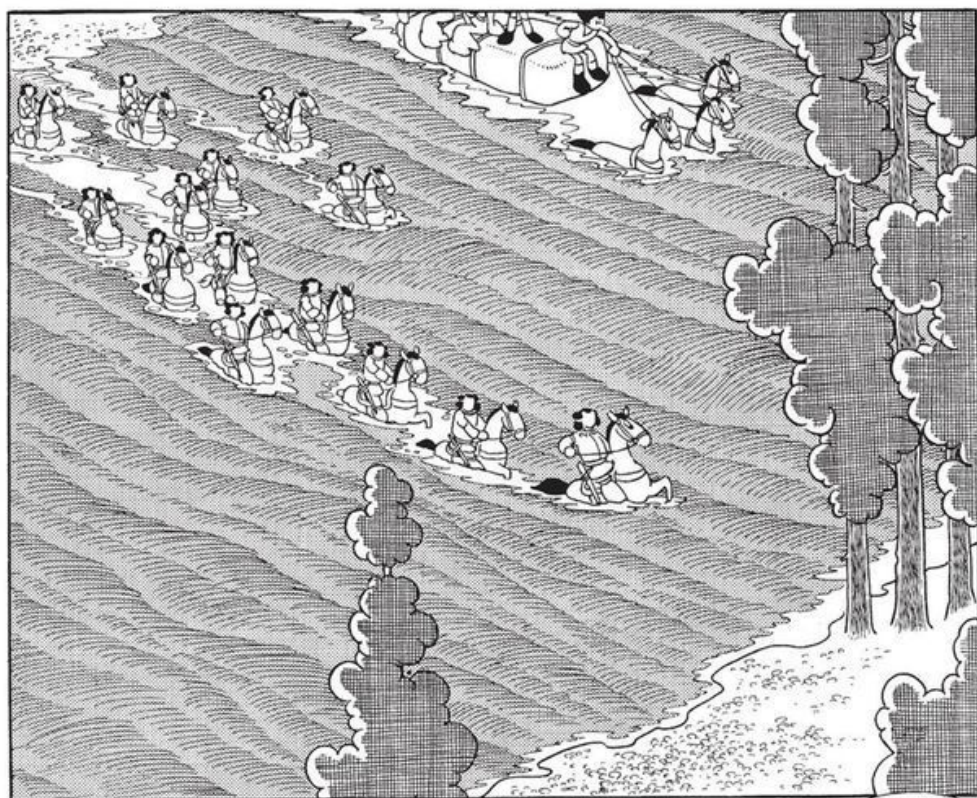
EXCEPT  
THAT I  
LIKE YOU!

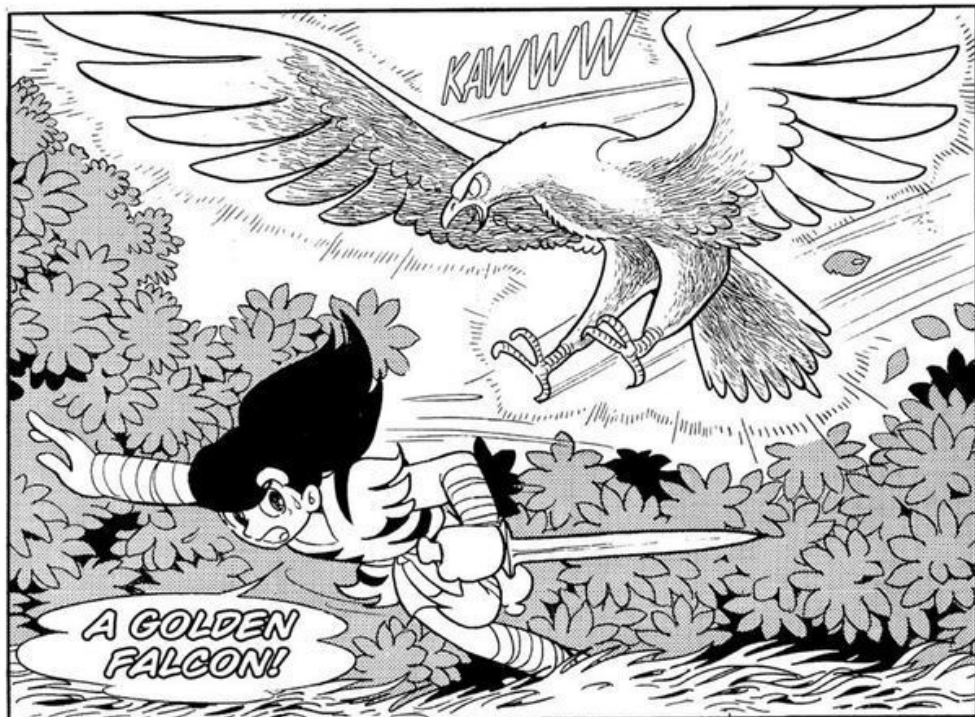
THAT'S  
ALL...



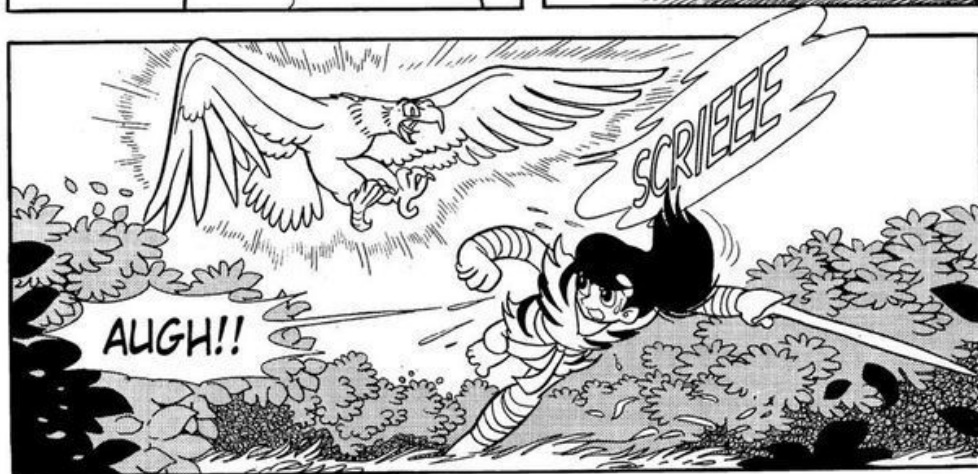
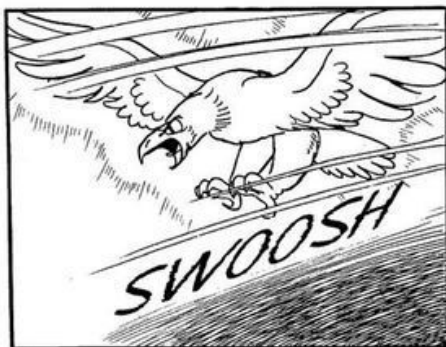






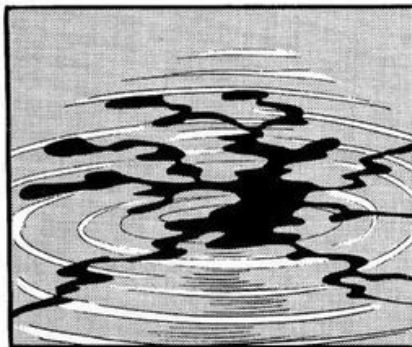
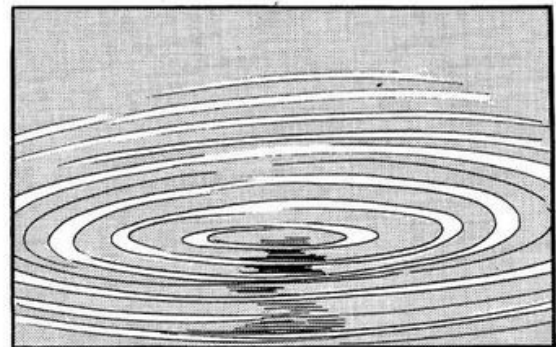
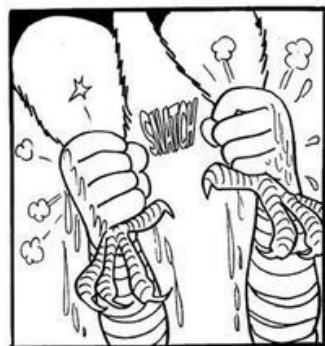
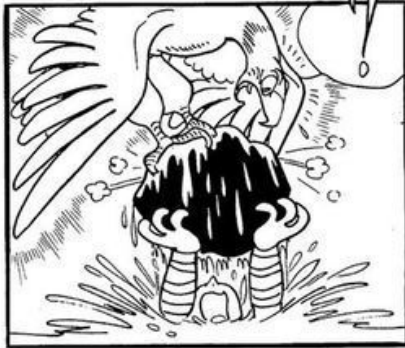
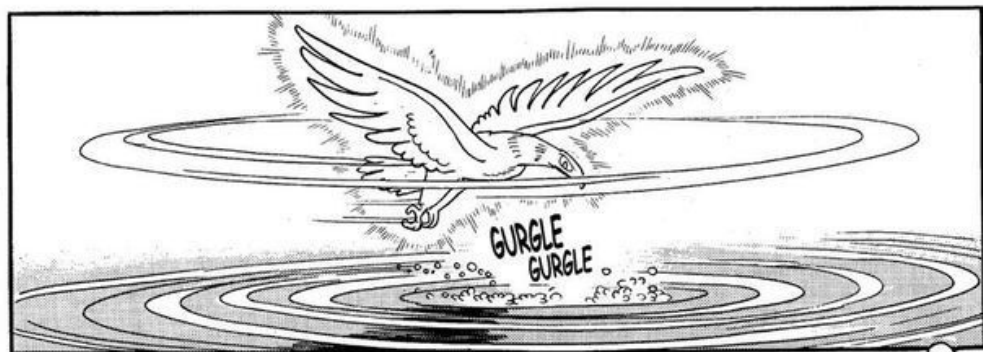


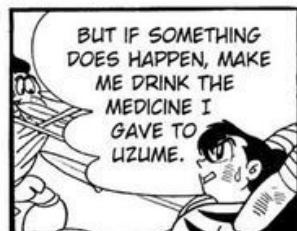


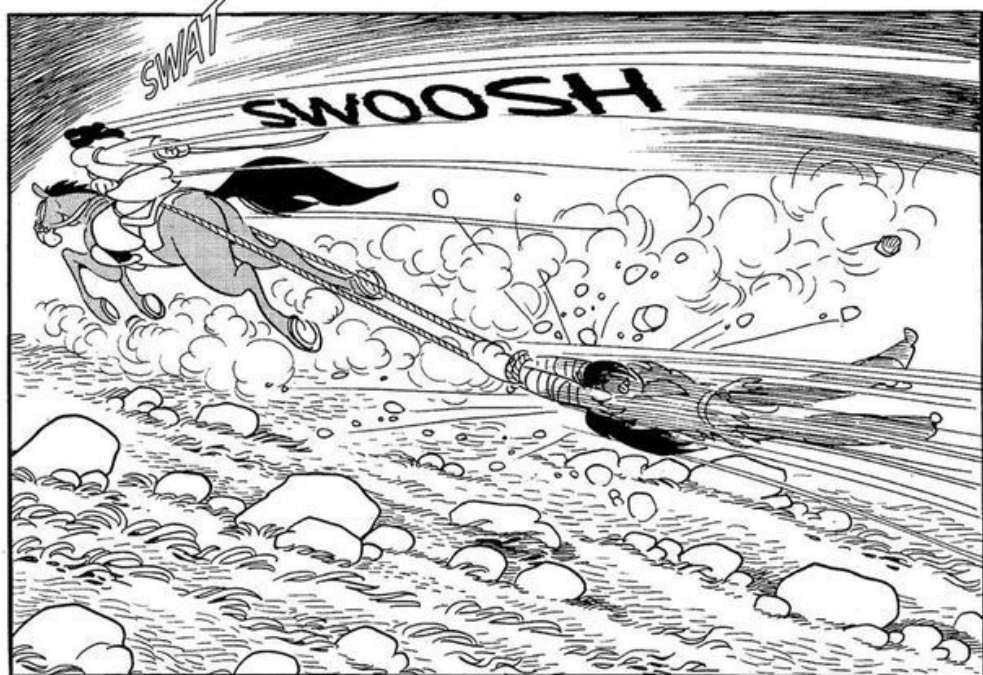


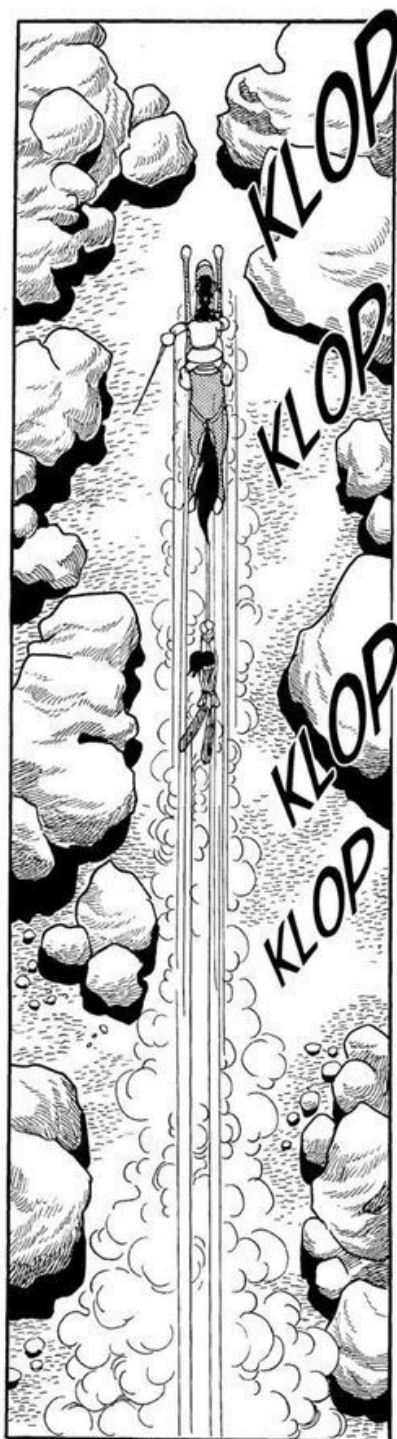


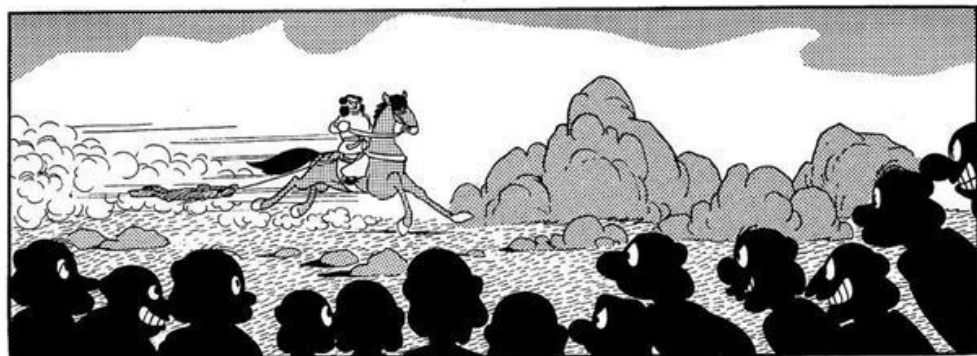






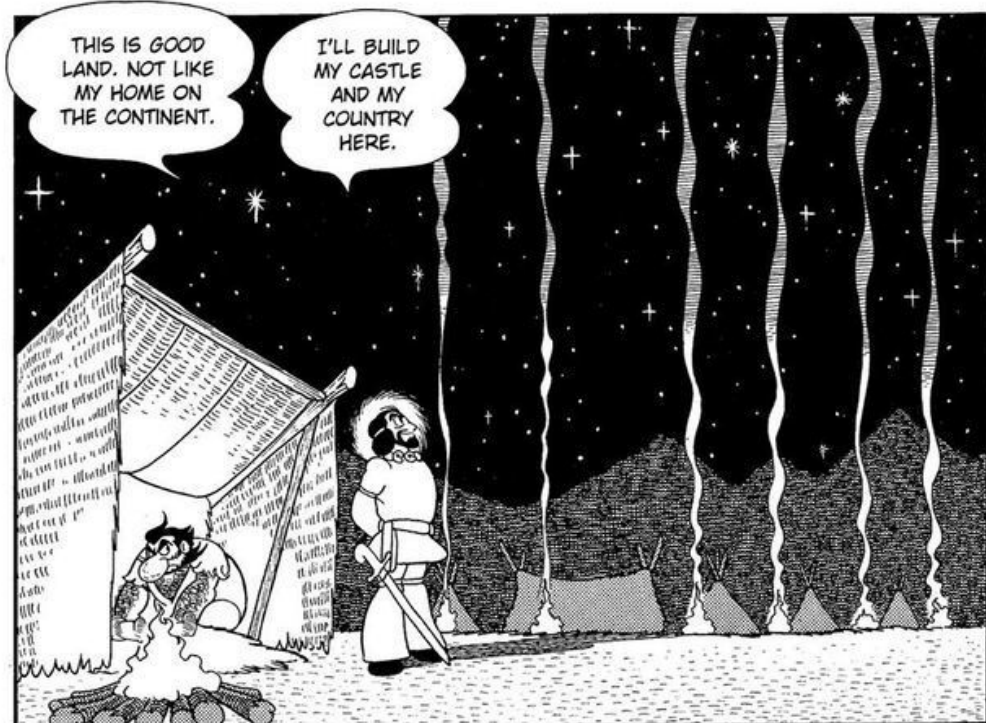


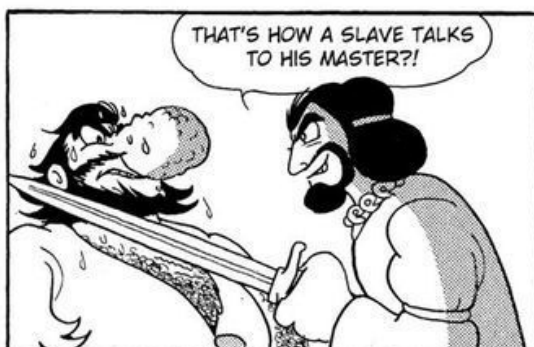
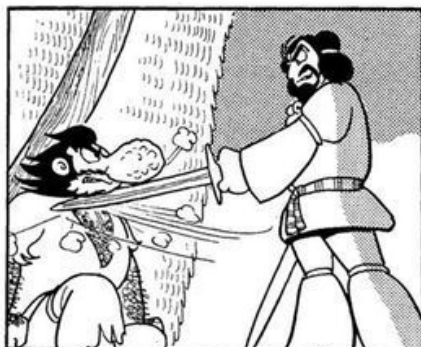










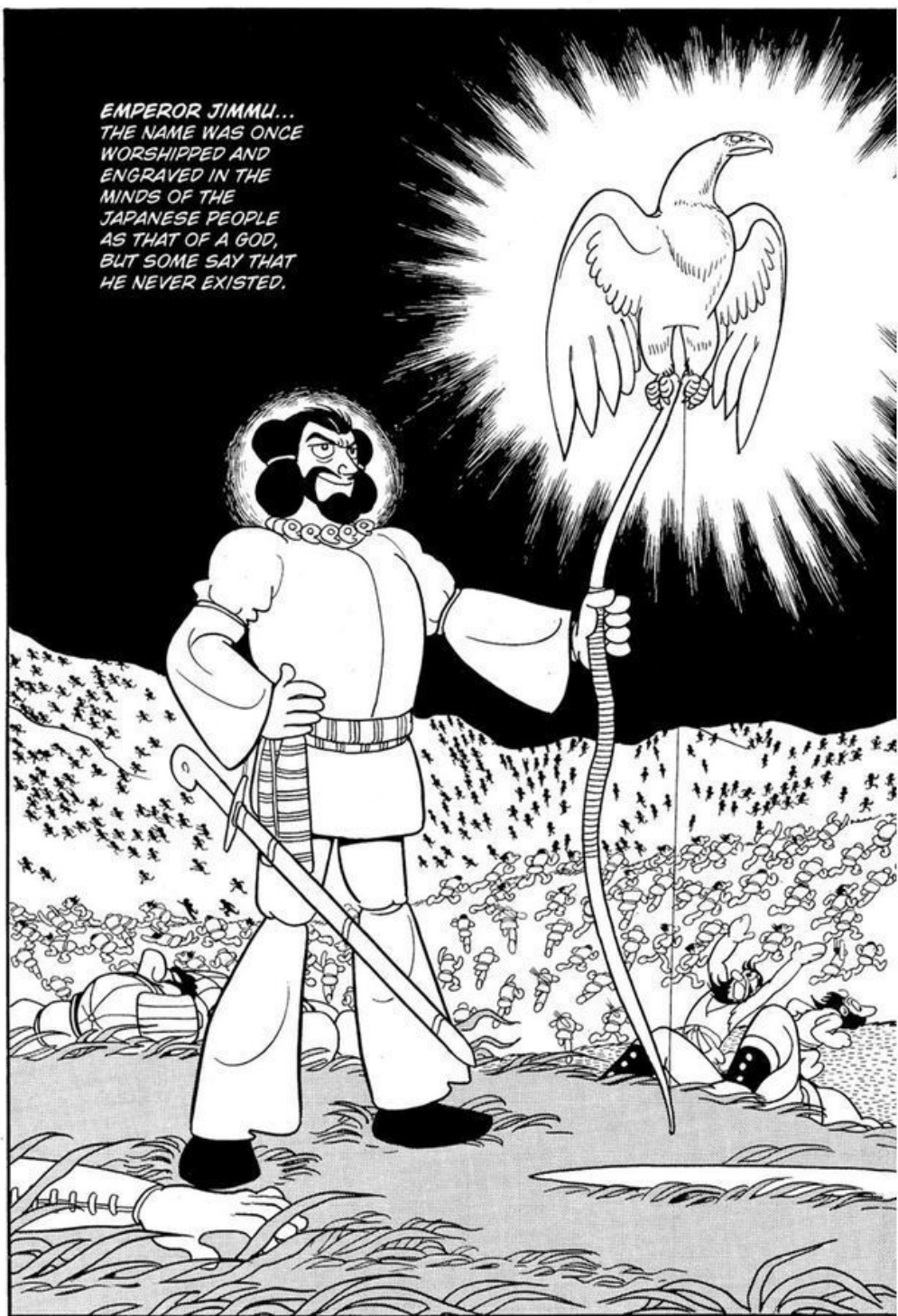


BUT UNTIL THAT TIME, I'LL LET YOU KEEP YOUR NOSE... AND YOUR LIFE.





*EMPEROR JIMMU...  
THE NAME WAS ONCE  
WORSHIPPED AND  
ENGRAVED IN THE  
MINDS OF THE  
JAPANESE PEOPLE  
AS THAT OF A GOD,  
BUT SOME SAY THAT  
HE NEVER EXISTED.*



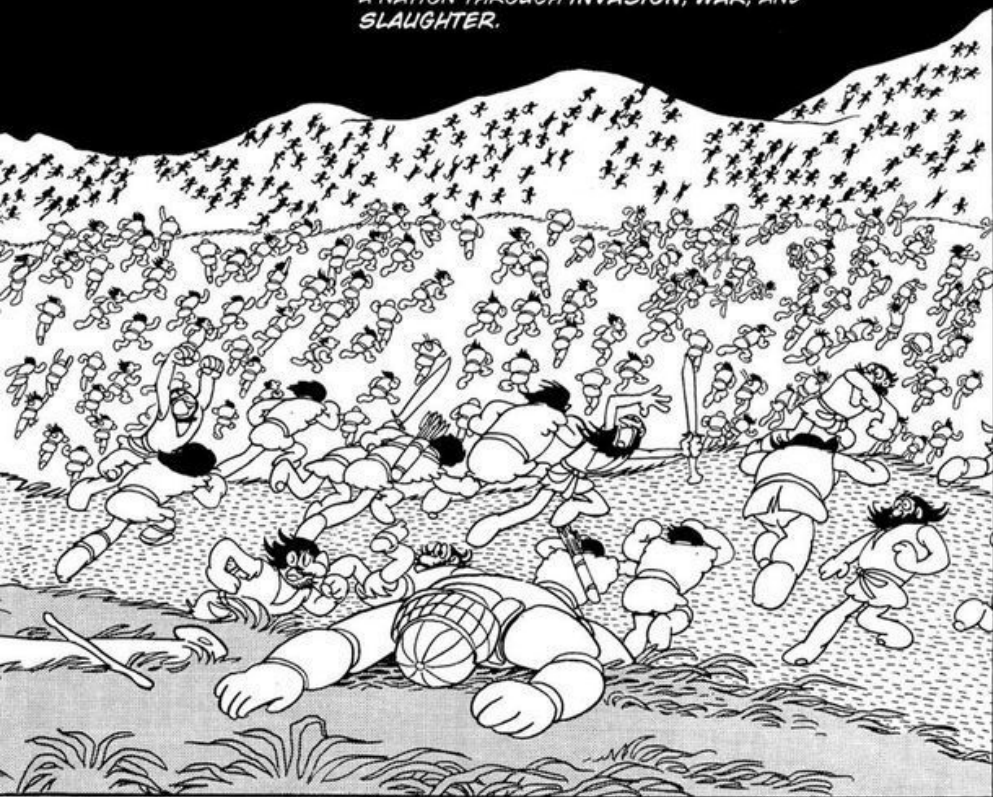


IT APPEARS THAT JIMMU AND THE TEN EMPERORS THAT FOLLOWED HIM WERE FICTIONAL, CREATED IN THE AGE OF EMPEROR SUJIN. ACCORDINGLY, CONSIDERABLE NONSENSE, SUCH AS AN AVERAGE LONGEVITY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS, WAS ASCRIBED TO THEM.

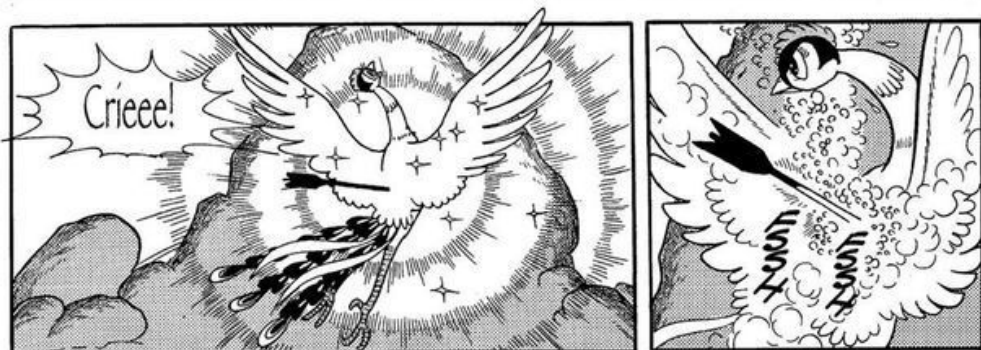
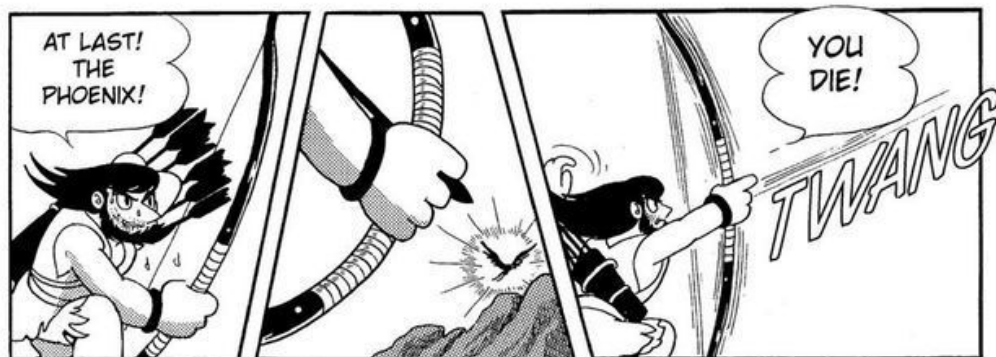
IT IS THEREFORE LOGICAL TO QUESTION WHETHER EMPEROR JIMMU IN REALITY USED A GOLDEN FALCON, SUBDUED HIS ENEMIES, AND CREATED THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN YAMATO. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE YAMATO COURT WAS ESTABLISHED BY SOMEONE.

ONE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACADEMIC THEORY IS THAT A MEMBER OF A MOUNTED TRIBE FROM THE ASIAN CONTINENT DID CONQUER THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OF JAPAN AND BUILT A CAPITAL IN YAMATO.

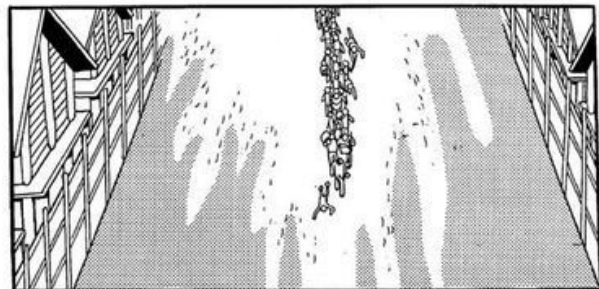
IN THIS FASHION, JAPAN WAS FORMED AS A NATION THROUGH INVASION, WAR, AND SLAUGHTER.



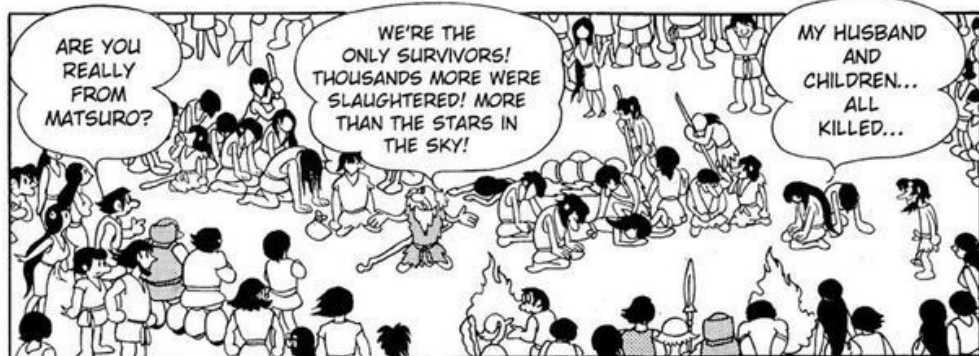


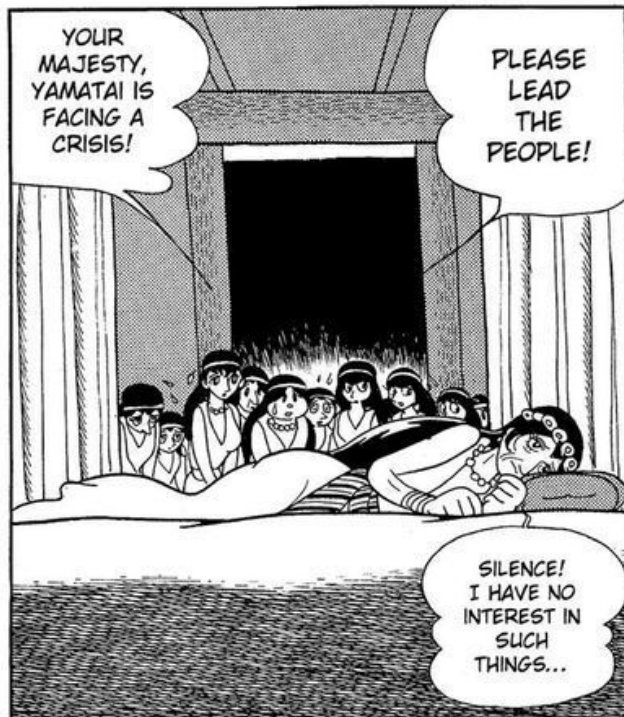
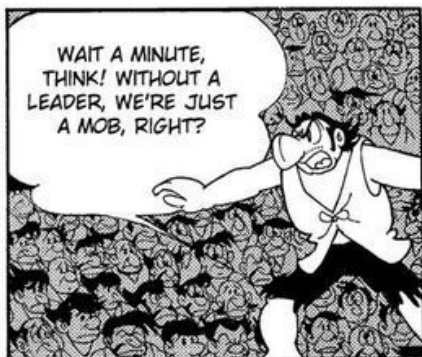


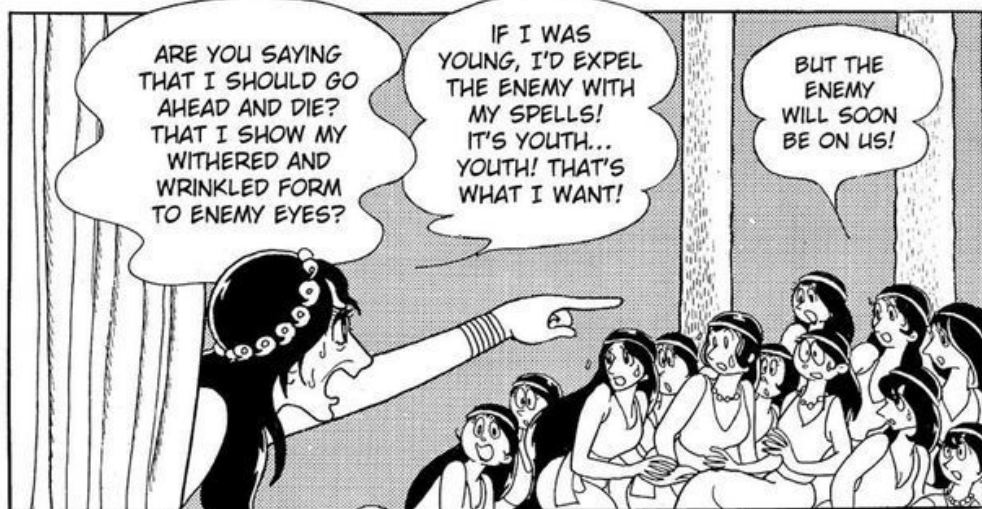


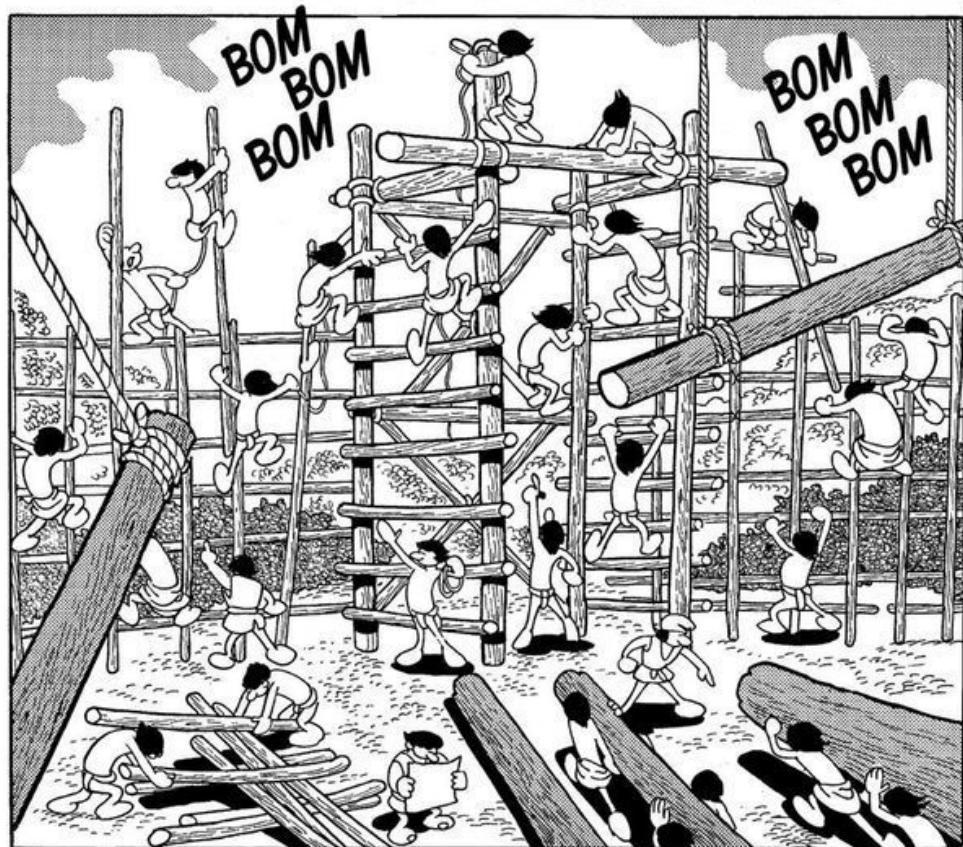
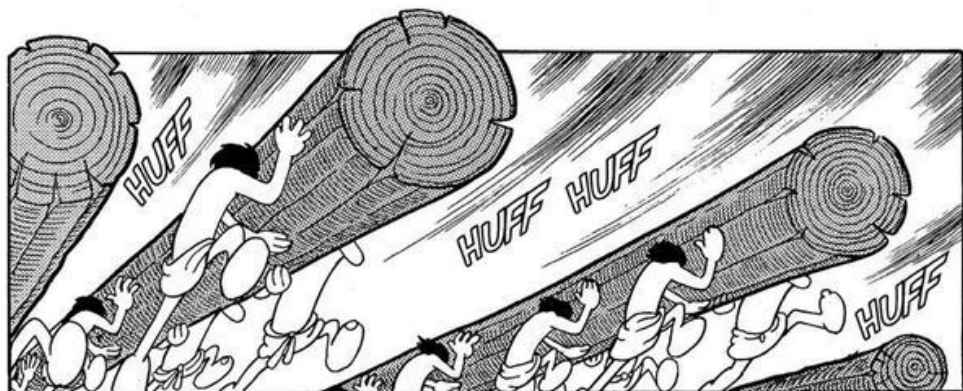




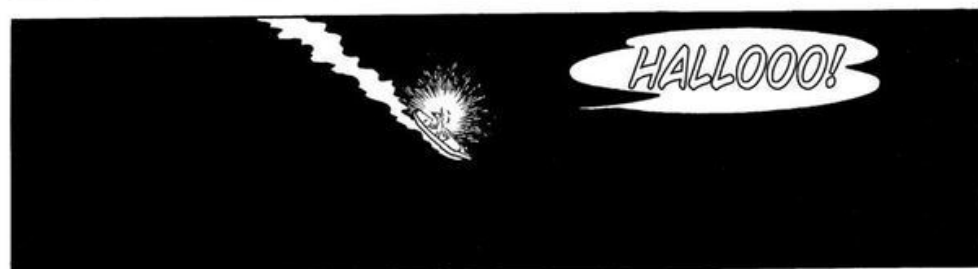
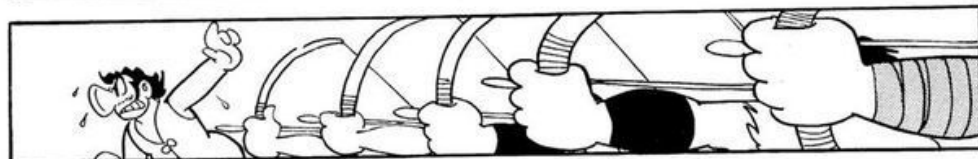
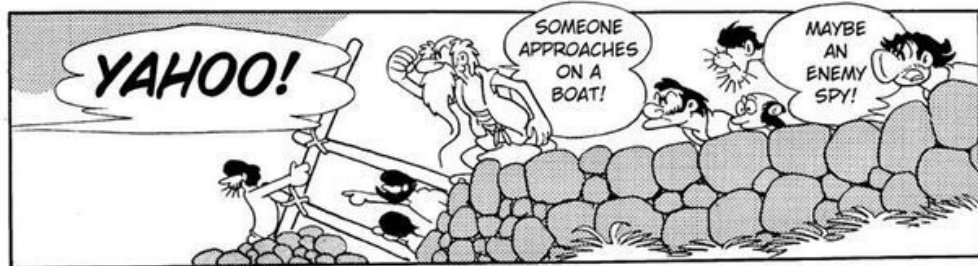




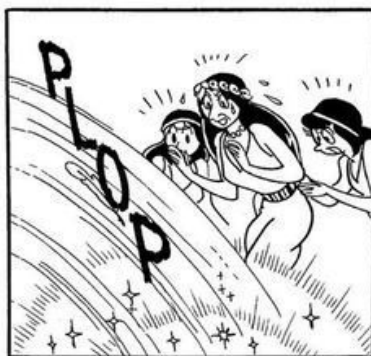




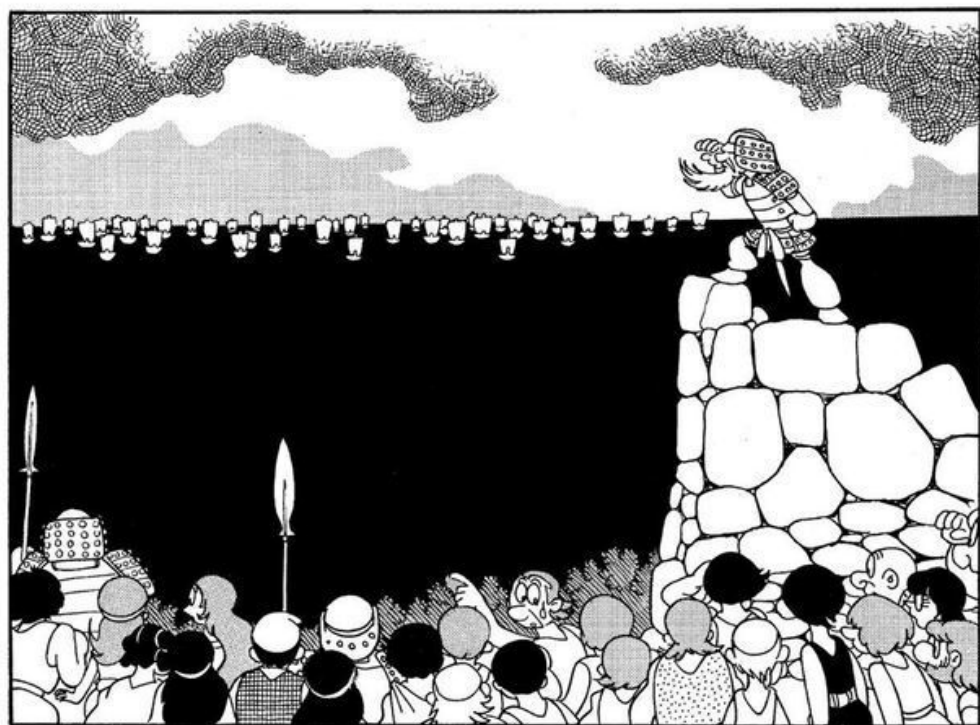
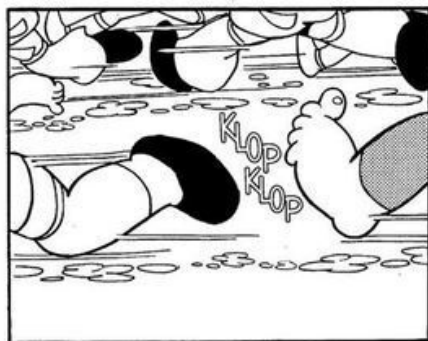
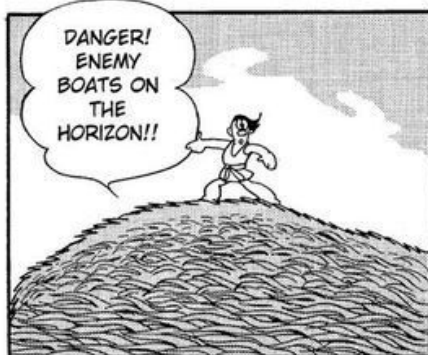




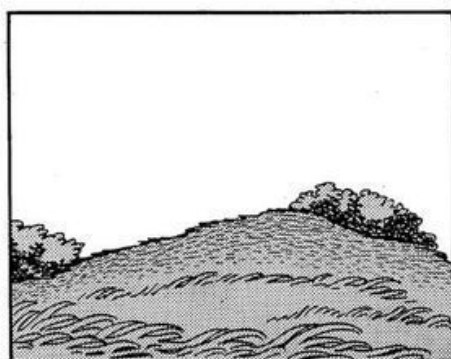
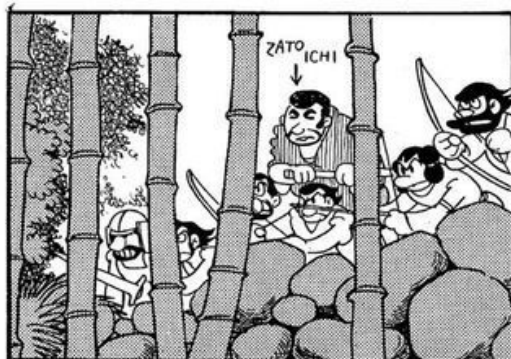
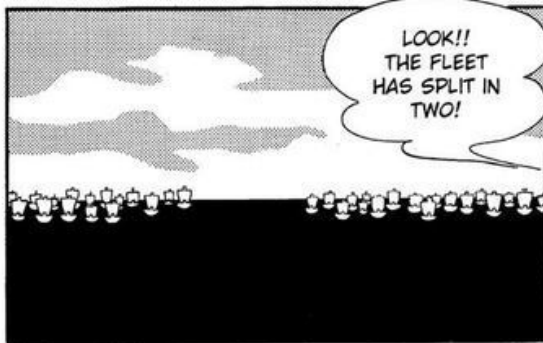
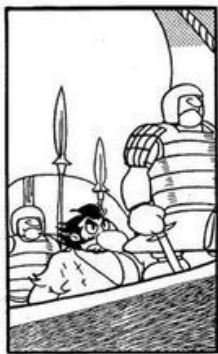




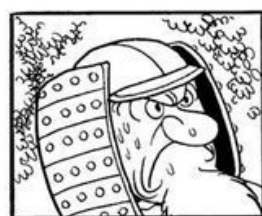
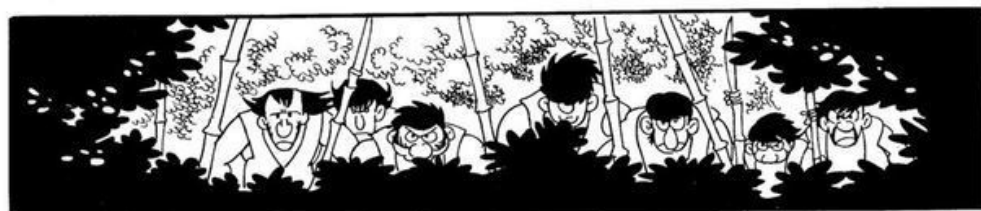


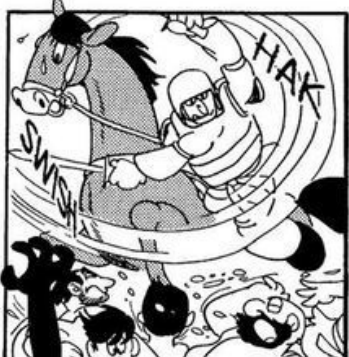
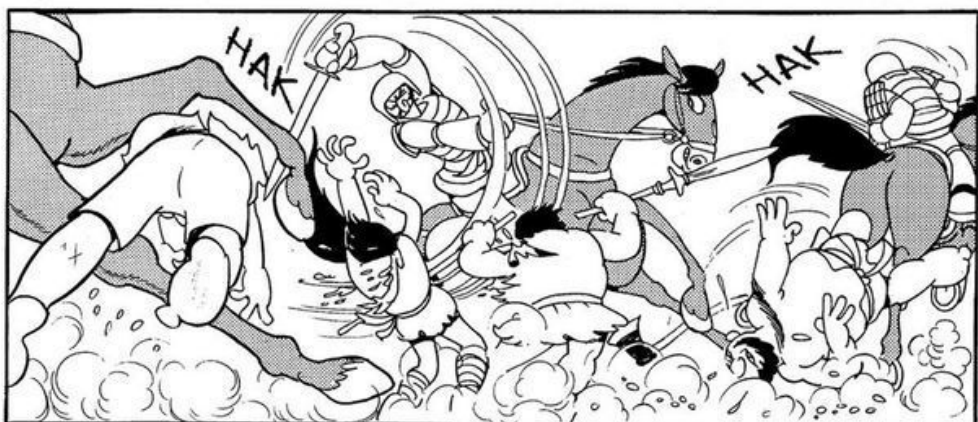




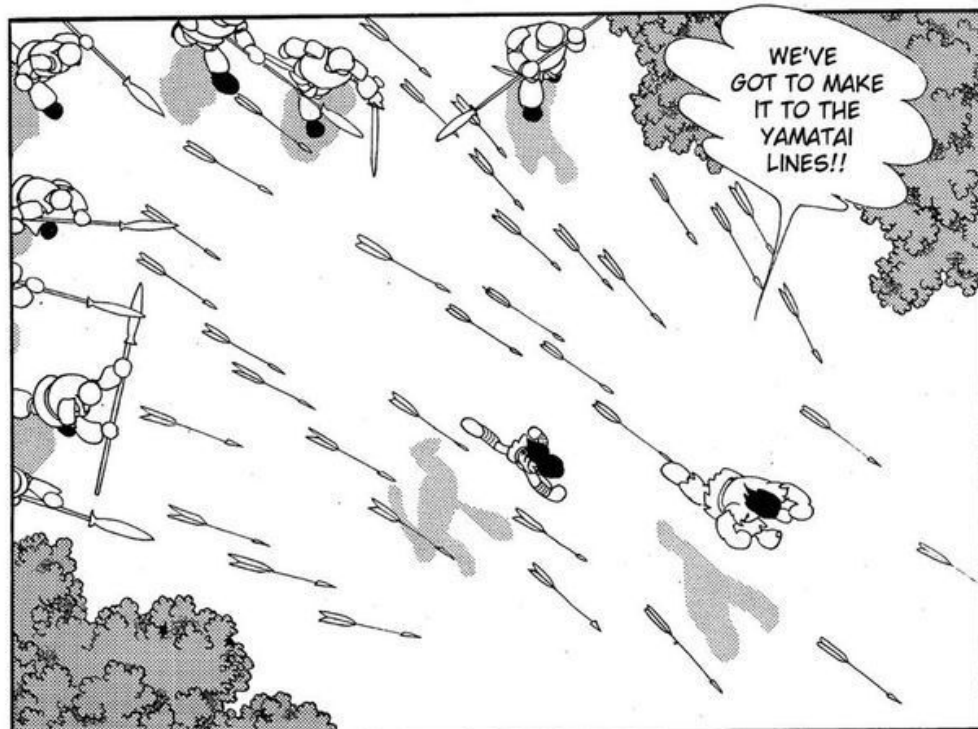


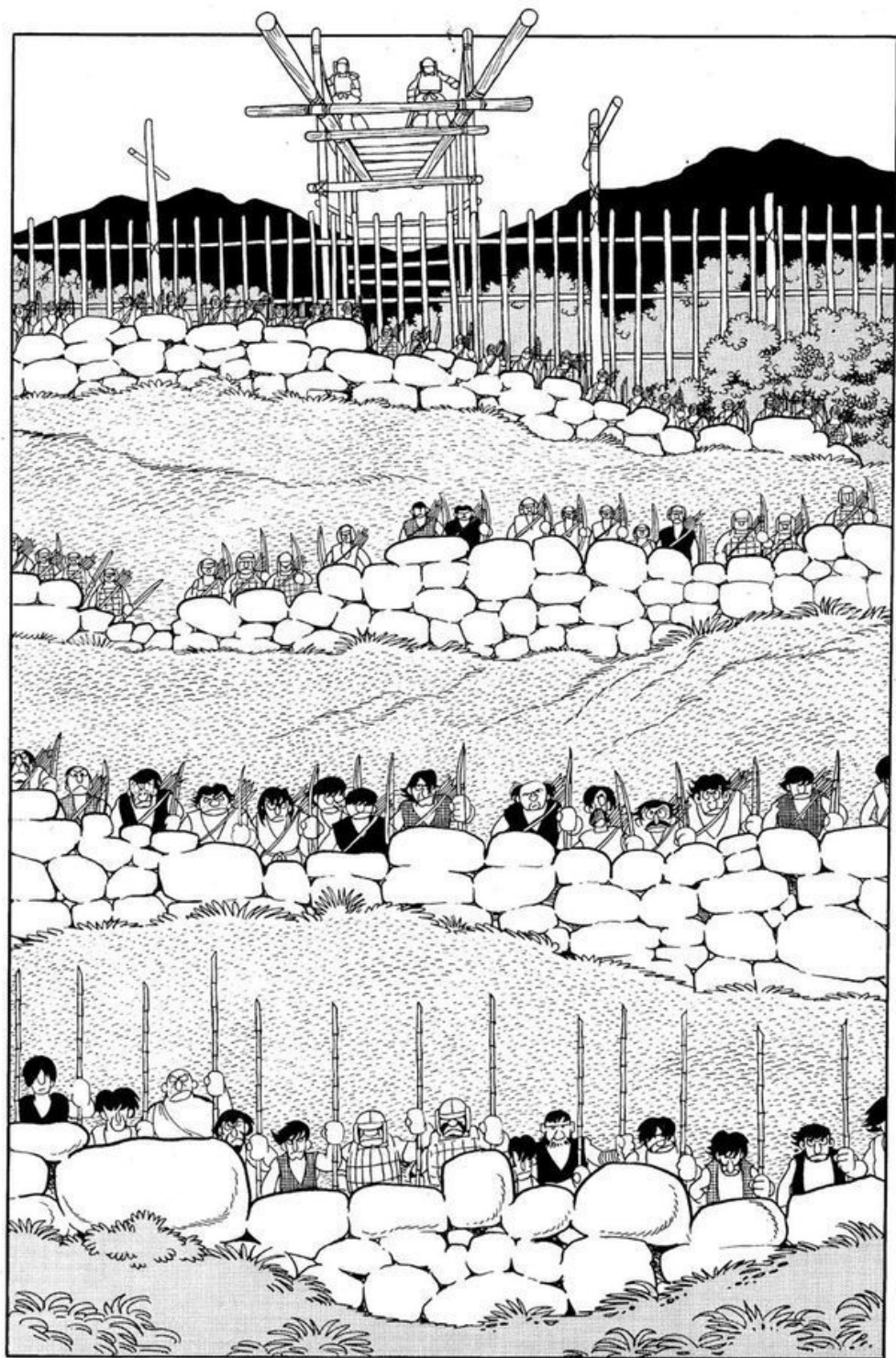




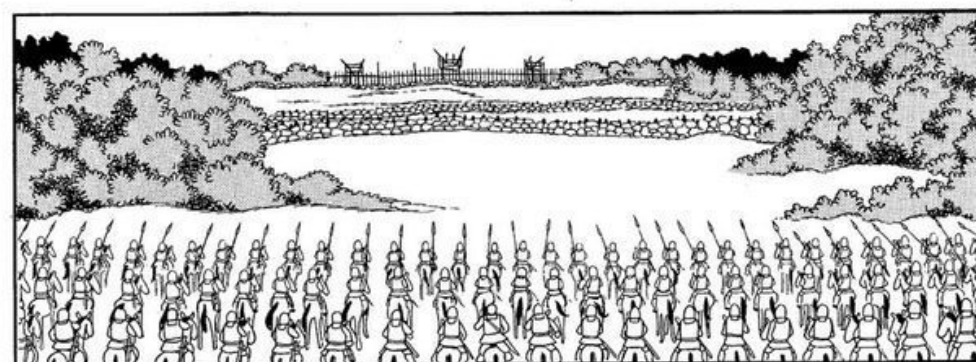
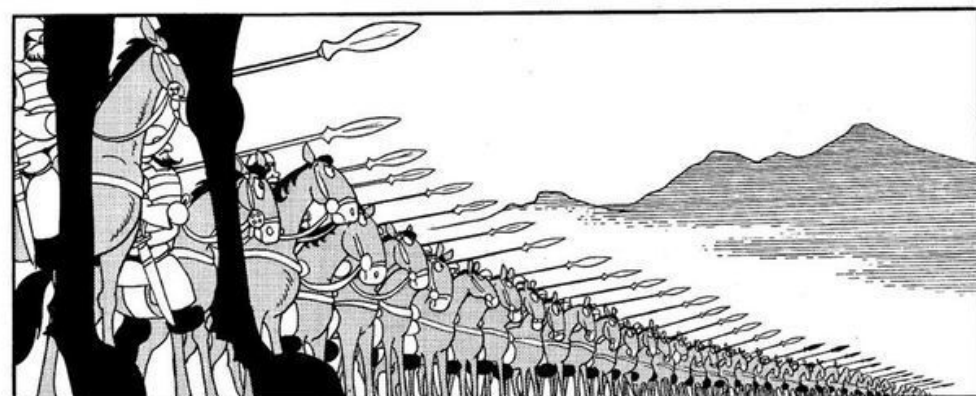
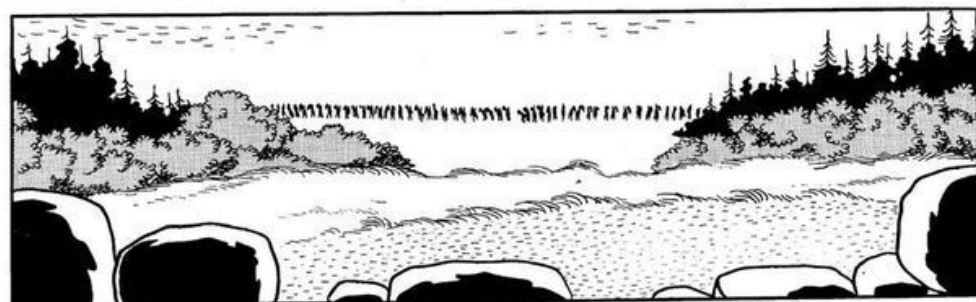
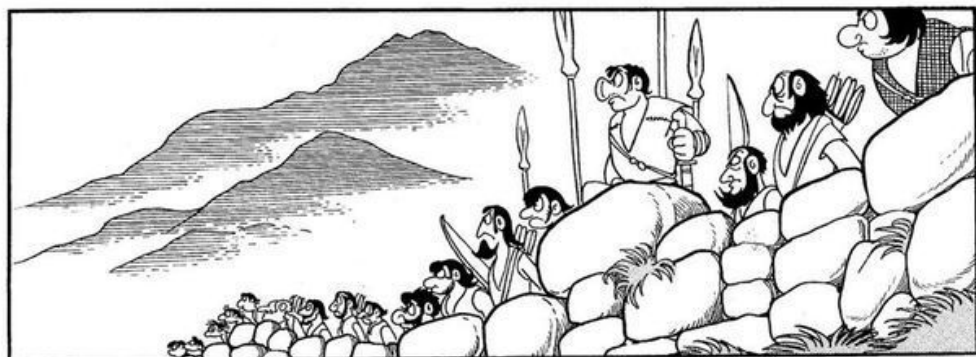


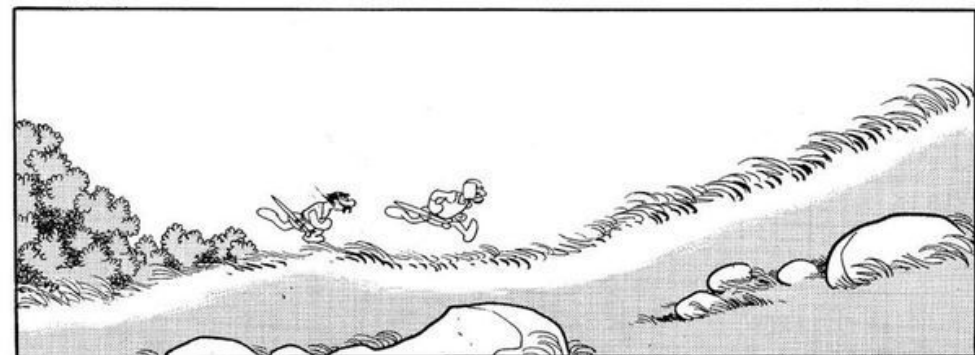
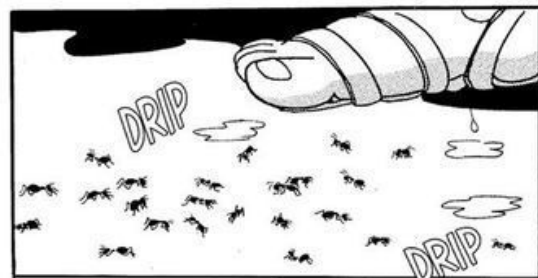
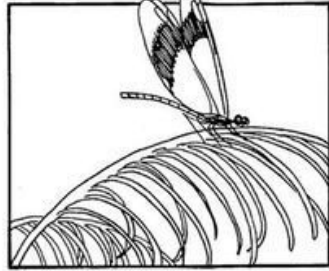
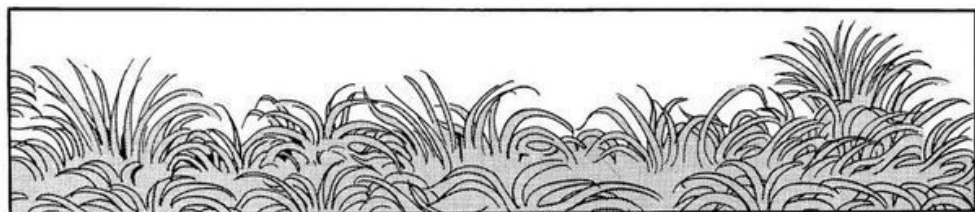
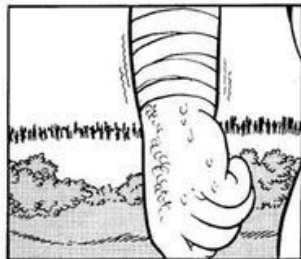


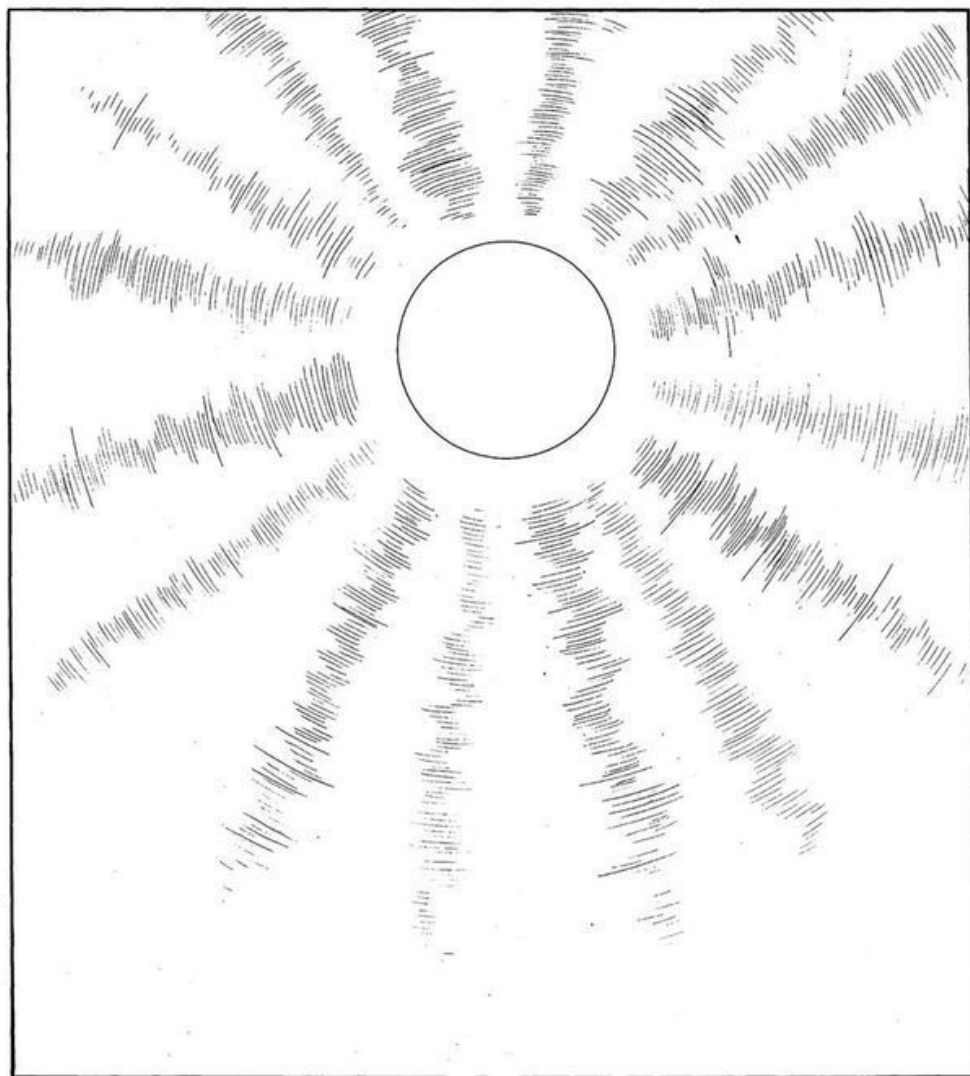








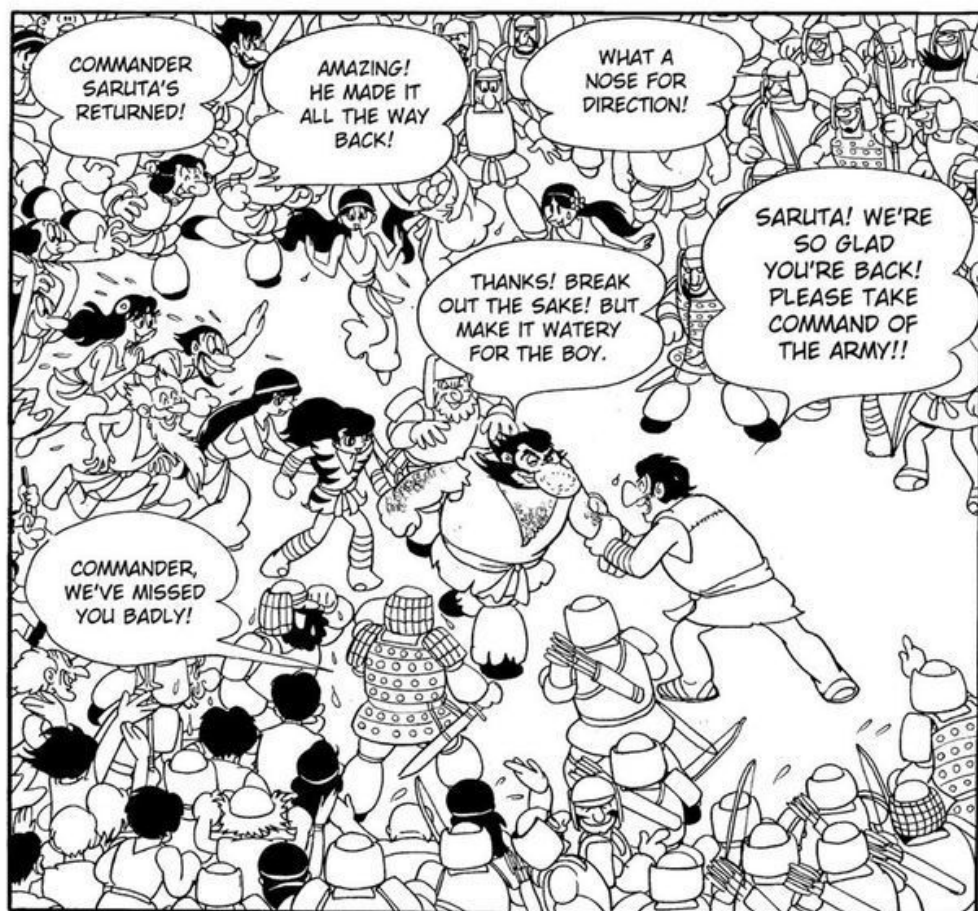
















WHAT  
WAS THE  
CAUSE?



I'M ASKING  
YOU!  
WHAT WAS THE  
CAUSE?



THERE  
WAS A  
SWELLING  
ON HER  
BREAST  
...



WELL? YOU'RE  
HER LADIES-  
IN-WAITING!  
DIDN'T YOU DO  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT IT?

SHE HID IT  
FROM US  
AND WE  
DIDN'T FIND  
OUT UNTIL  
WE LAID HER  
IN STATE...



NO...



FORGET IT,  
SARUTA! SHE  
WASN'T  
WORTH YOUR  
TEARS.



STILL YOUR  
TONGUE!



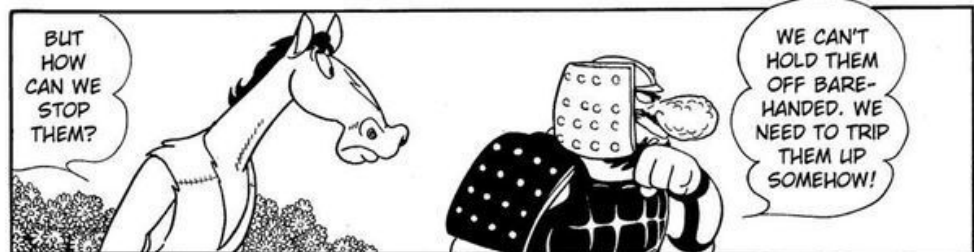
I DIDN'T COME BACK  
HERE TO SERVE HER  
HIGHNESS! I FLED HERE  
BECAUSE I HAVE A  
SCORE TO SETTLE WITH  
THE TAKAMAGAHARA!

ALL  
RIGHT, IF  
THAT'S  
THE CASE,  
STOP  
MAKING  
SUCH A  
FUSS.



I NEED A  
SWORD  
AND  
ARMOR!

GIVE  
THE BOY  
A BOW!

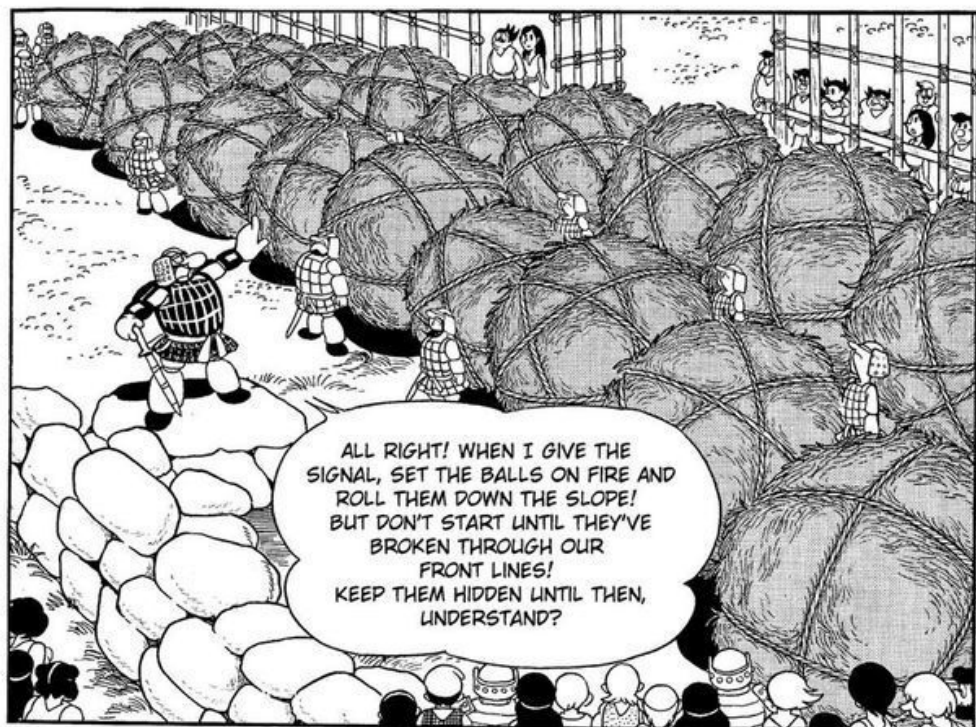
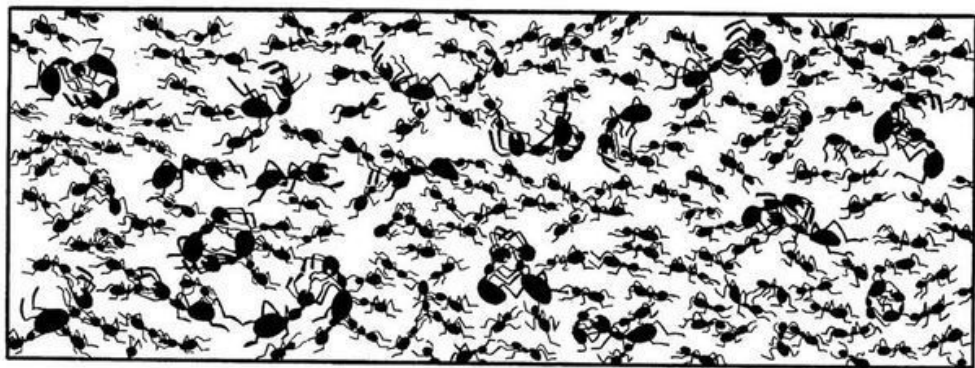


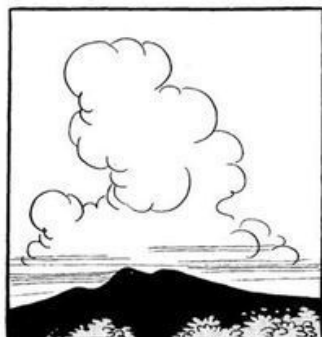
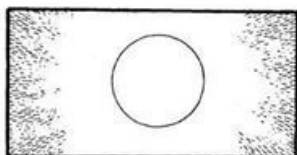
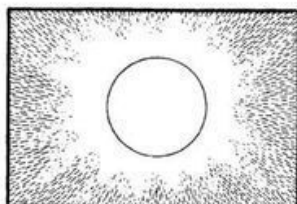
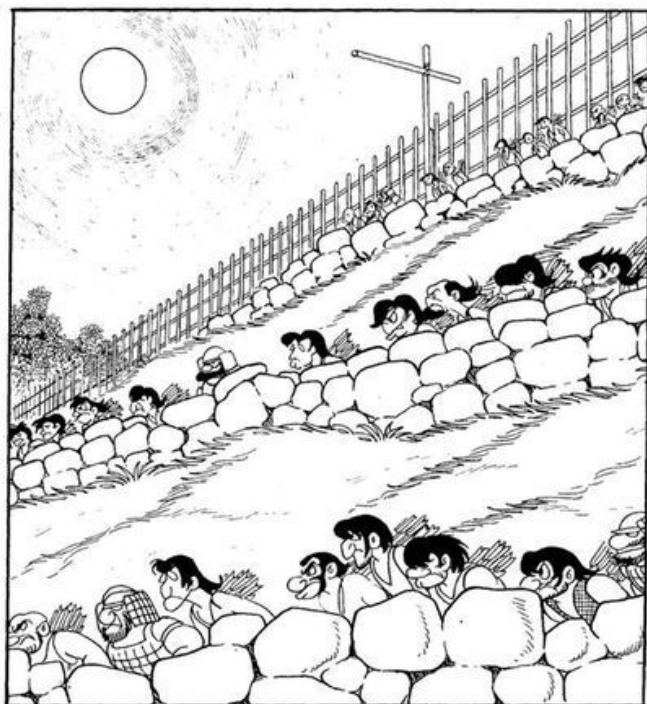












LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME, SARUTA.

EVEN THOUGH THEY SAY THE ATTACK WILL BE AT NOON...

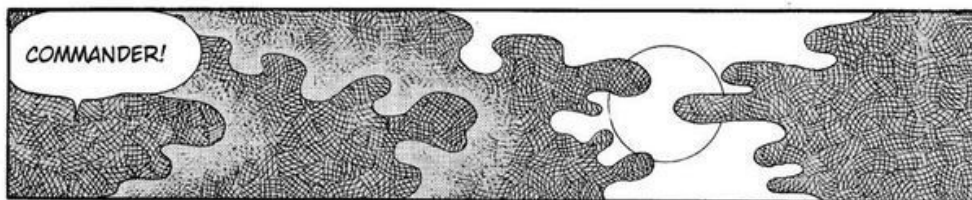
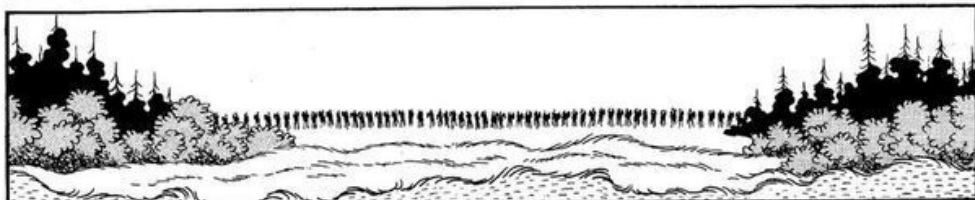
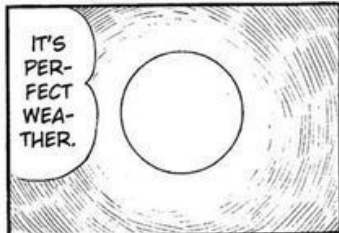
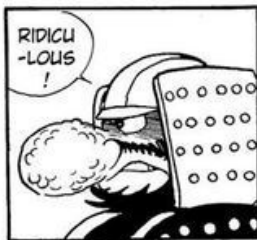


THE AIR'S GETTING DAMP.

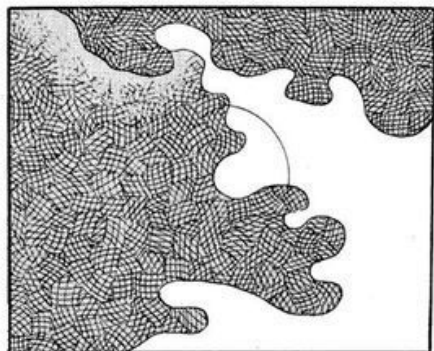
LOOK AT THAT CLOUD. LOOKS BAD.

IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT...

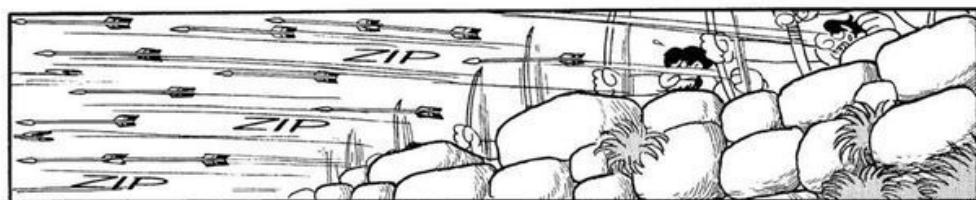
IT'LL PROBABLY RAIN BY NOON.

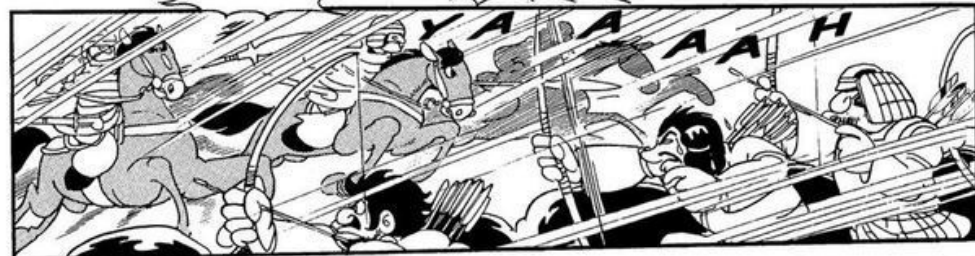








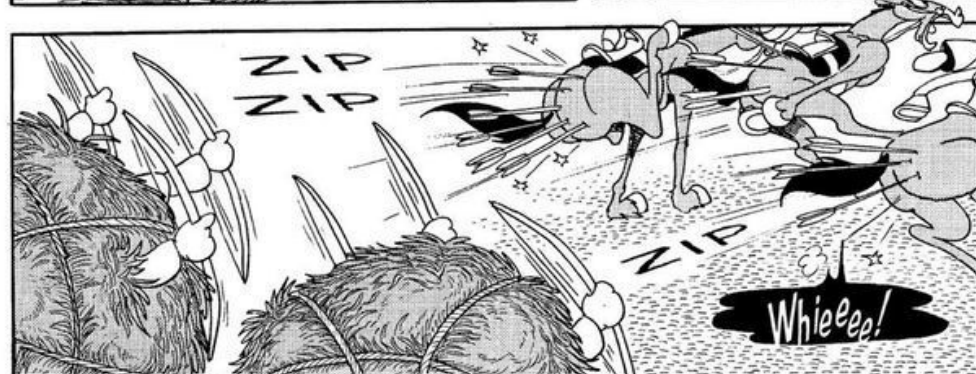
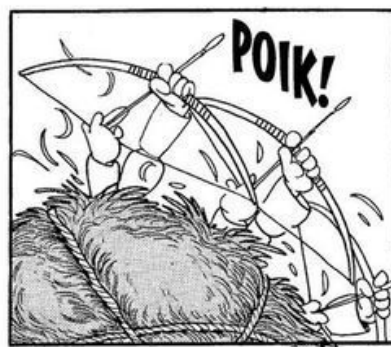
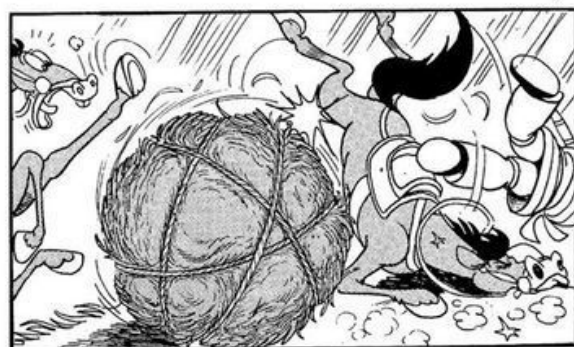


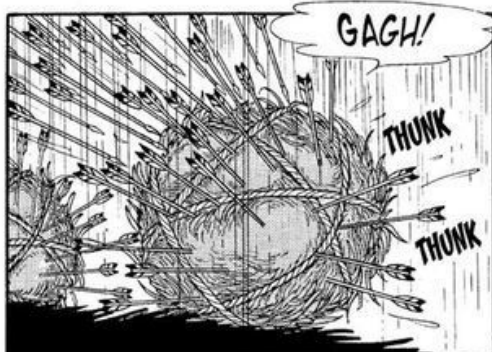
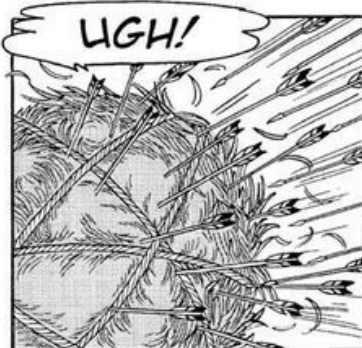


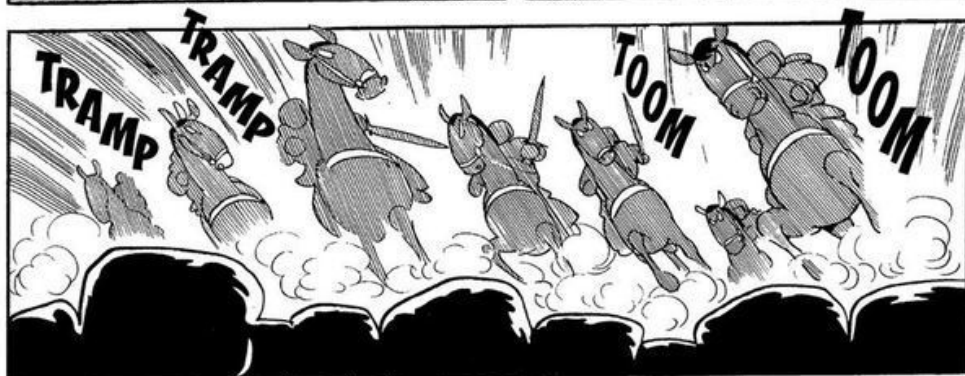
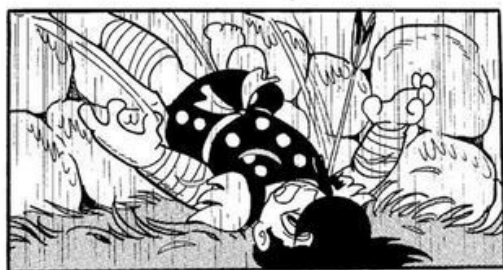


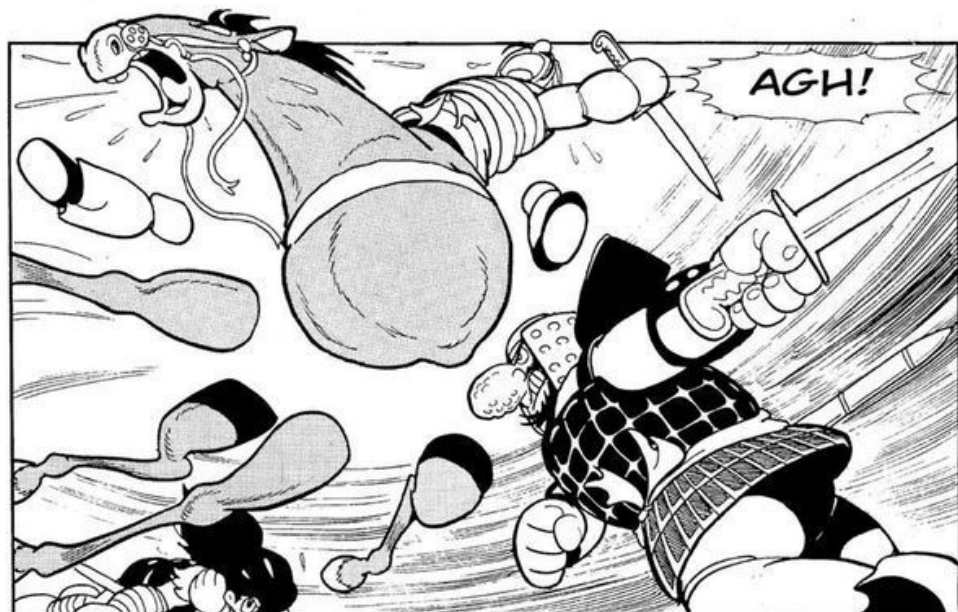
















SARUTA, WAIT  
HERE! I'VE GOT TO  
GO GET SOMETHING  
IMPORTANT!



FOOL! WE  
DON'T HAVE  
ANY TIME  
FOR THAT!

IT'S SOMETHING  
THAT WILL HELP  
YOU AND ALL  
THE OTHERS!  
IT'S BURIED  
SOMEWHERE!



WAIT!  
IF YOU  
HAVE TO  
GO, ONE  
THING...



JUST ONCE,  
CALL ME  
FATHER AND  
GO!

WHY? THAT  
CAN WAIT TILL  
LATER!



NO!  
THIS  
IS THE  
LAST  
CHANCE  
!



FATHER!

WELL SAID!  
THIS IS  
WHERE WE  
PART, SON!

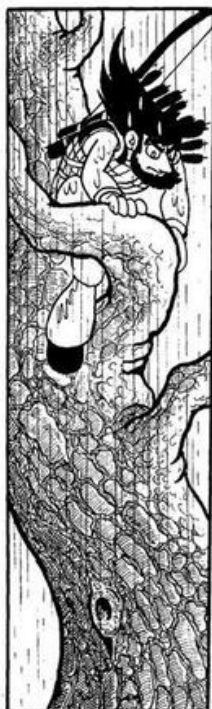
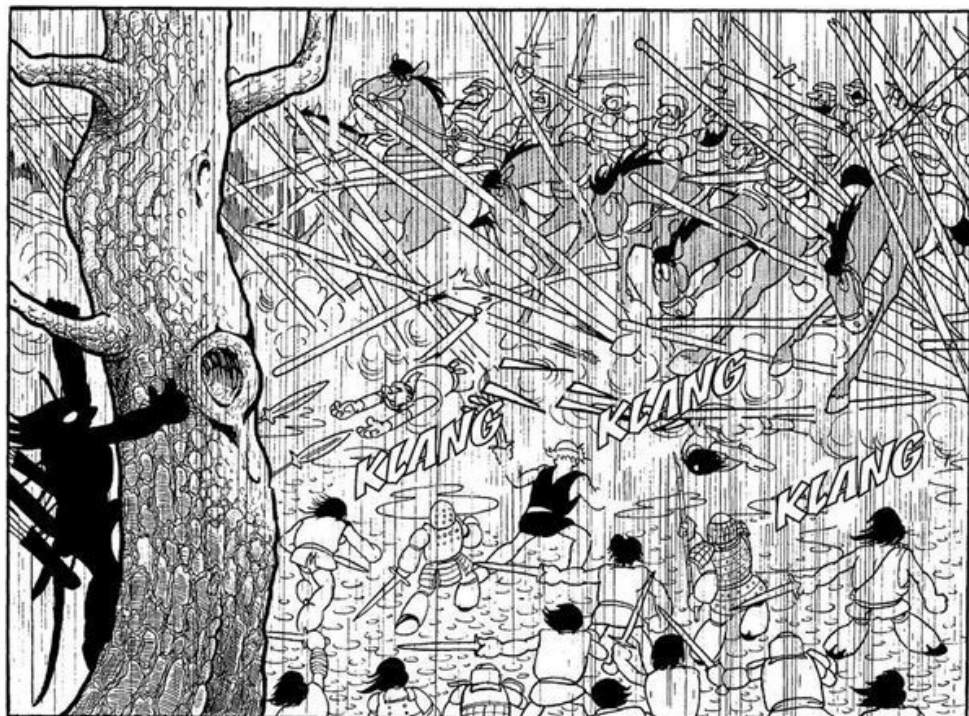


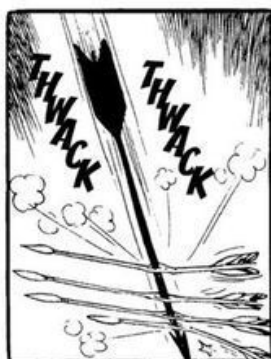
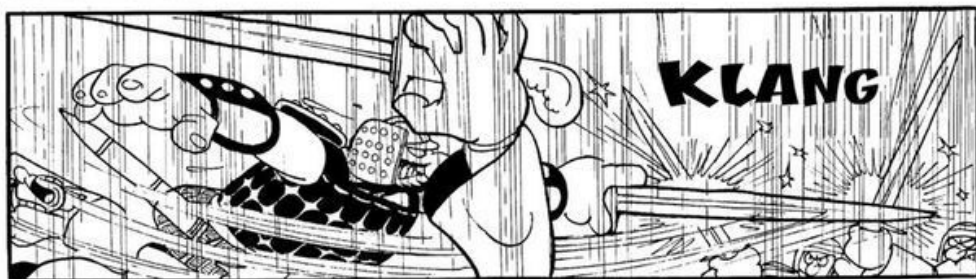
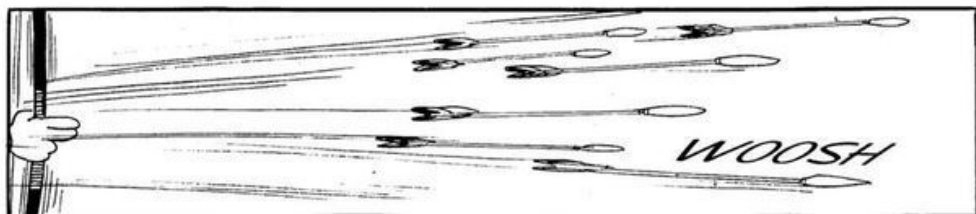
NINIGI!  
WHERE'S  
NINIGI?

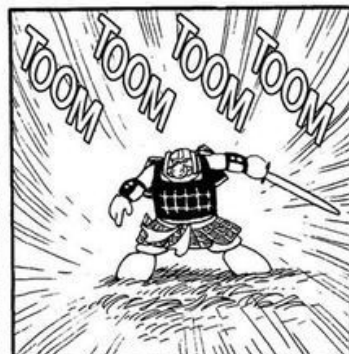
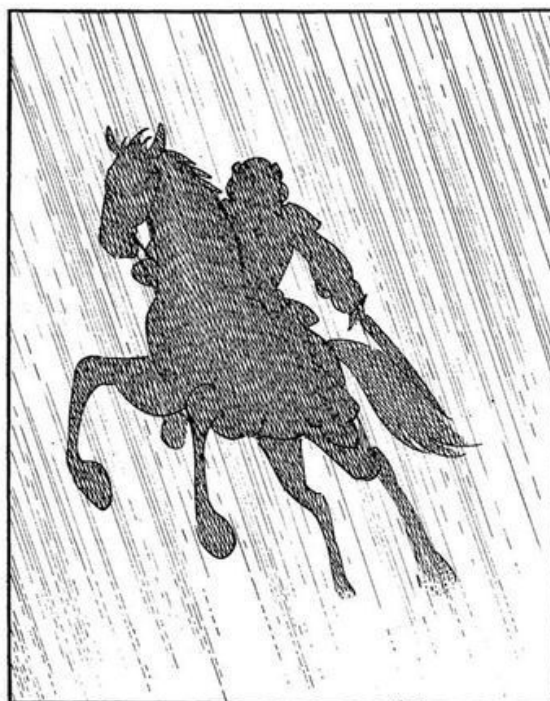
SARUTA'S  
HERE!  
WHERE'S MY  
WIFE?  
WHERE'S  
UZUME?







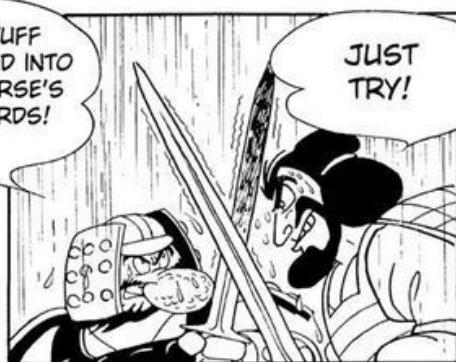




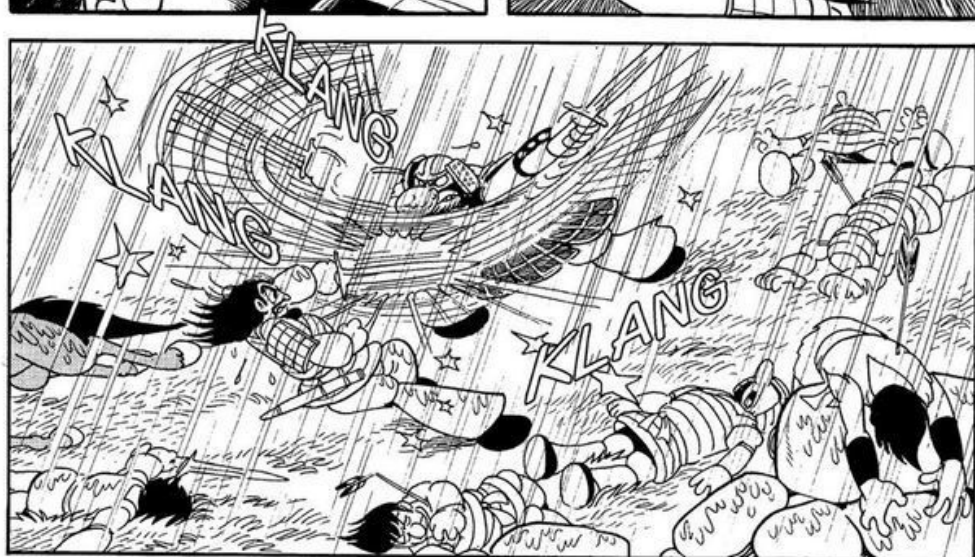
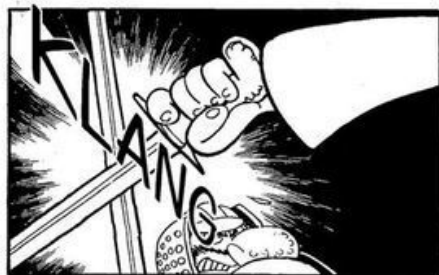


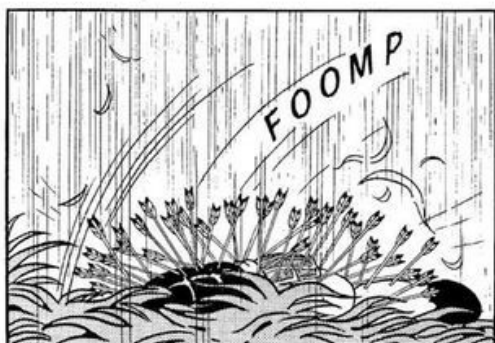
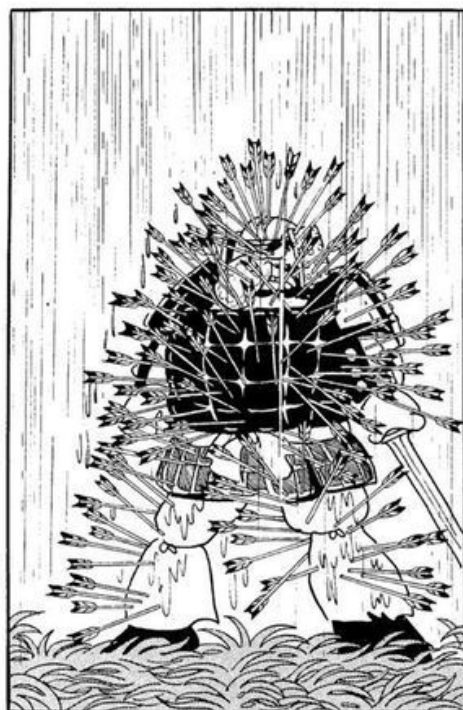


I'LL STUFF  
YOUR HEAD INTO  
YOUR HORSE'S  
INNARDS!

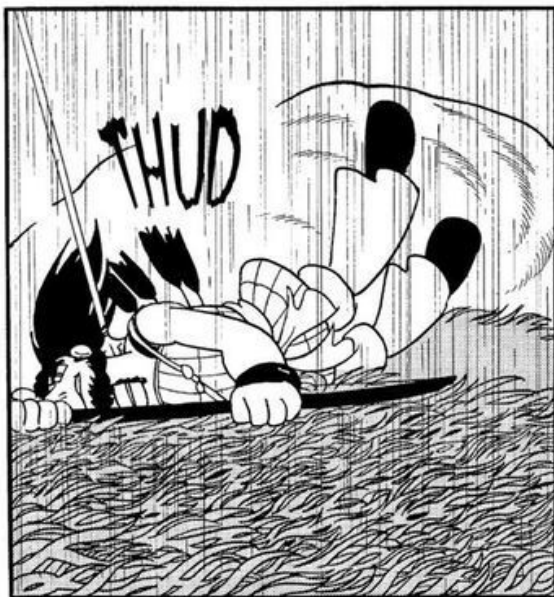
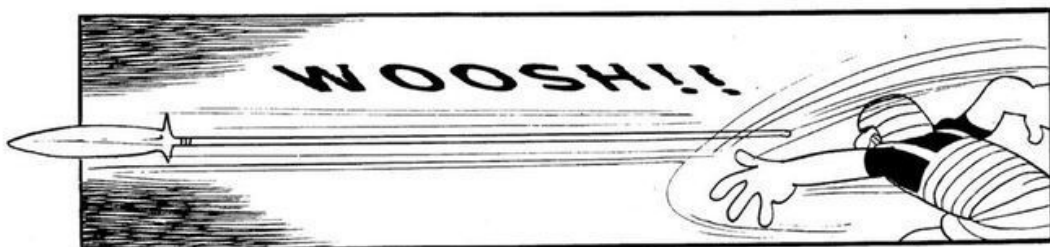










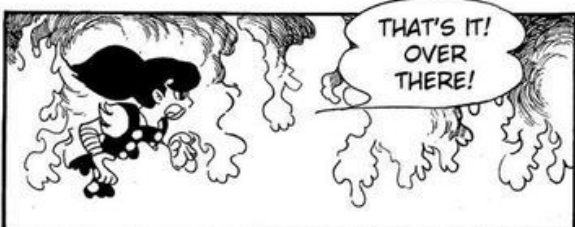
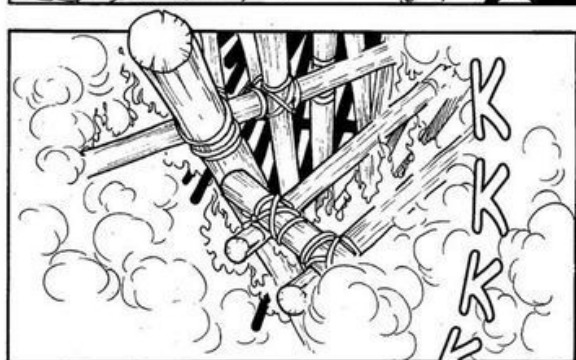
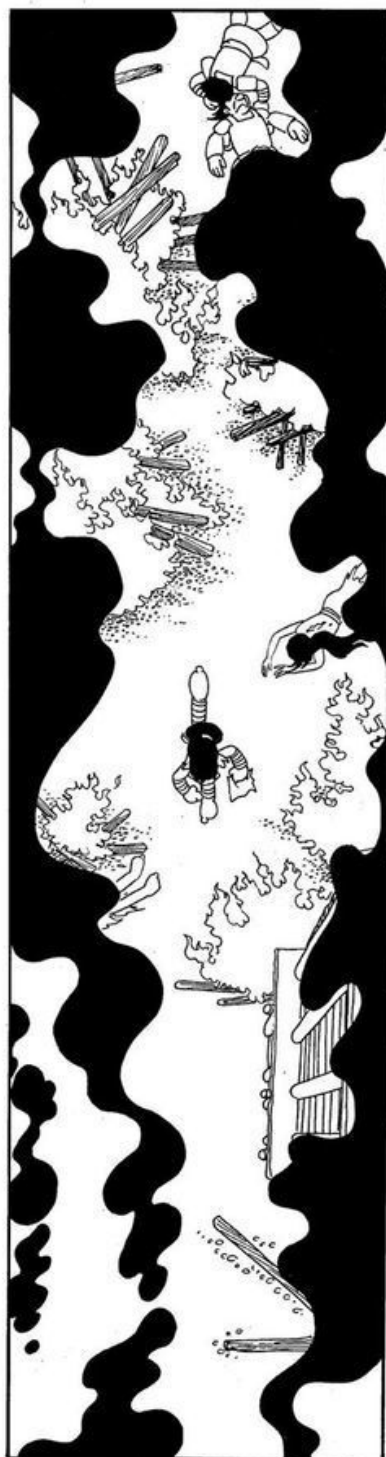


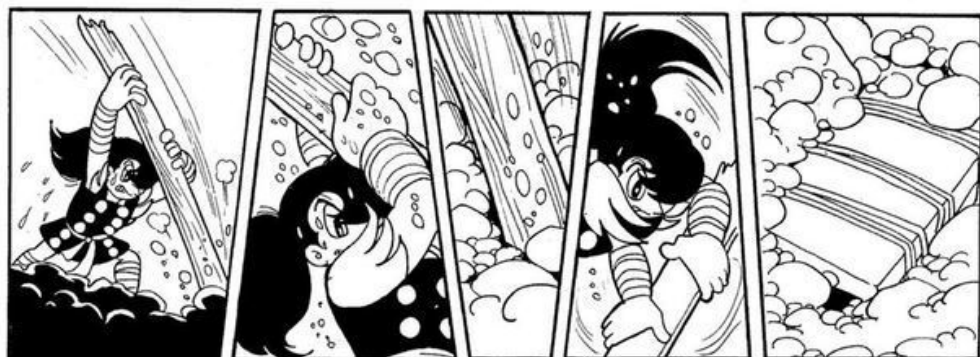
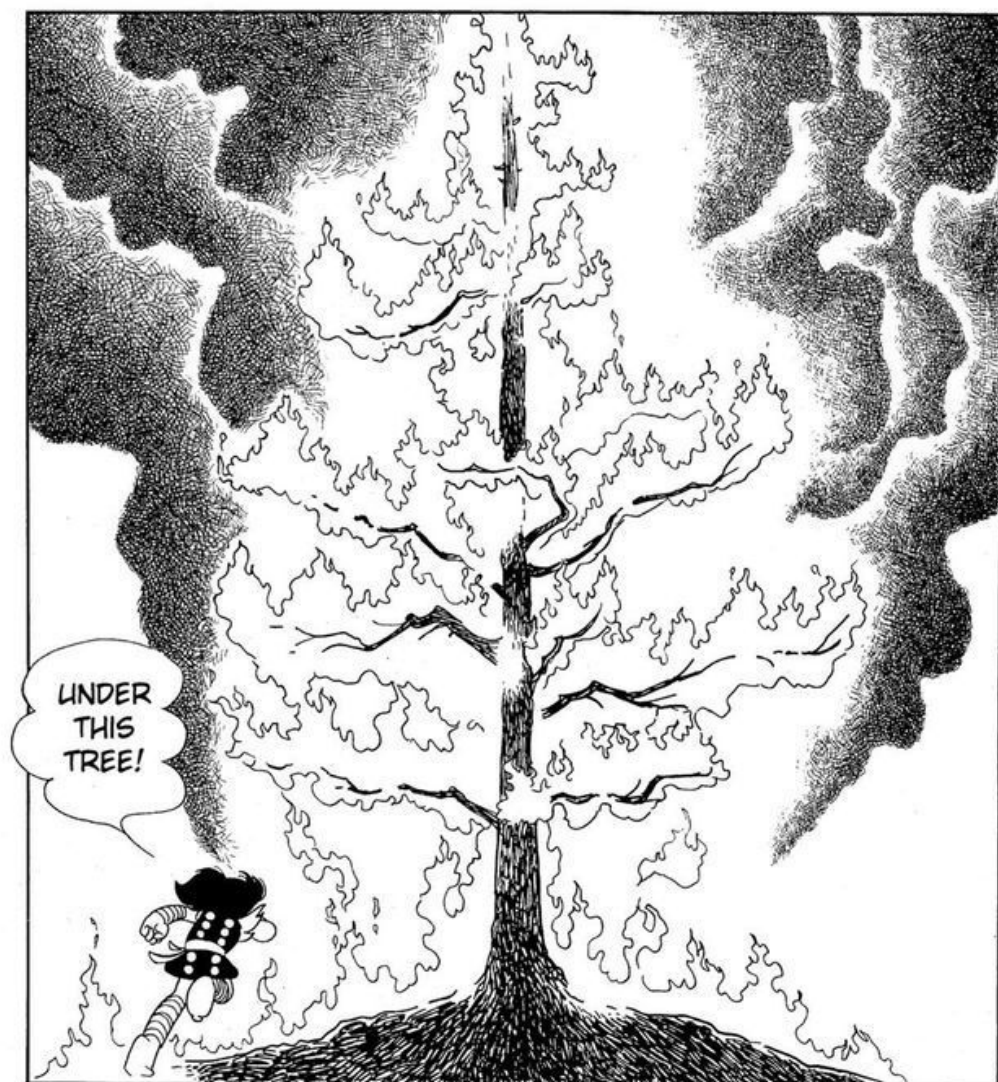


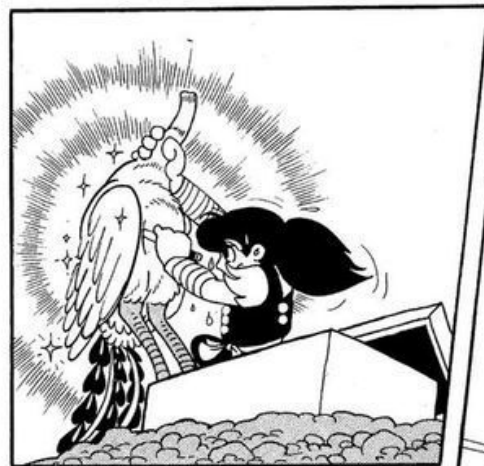


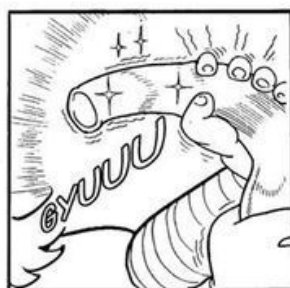








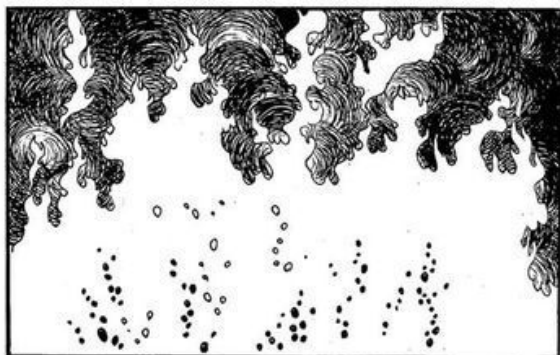
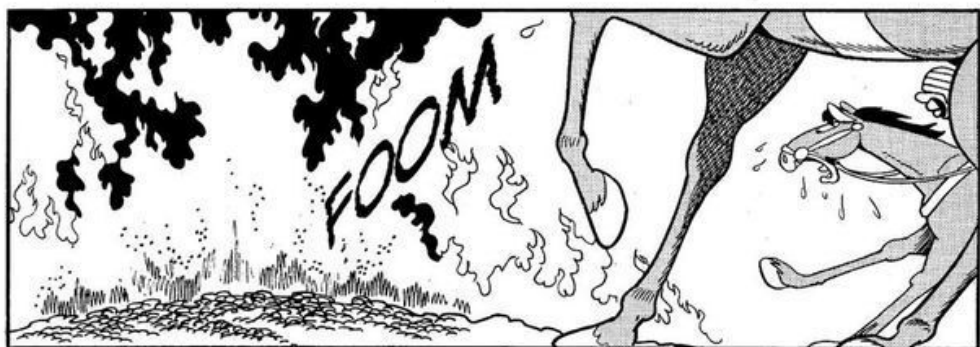


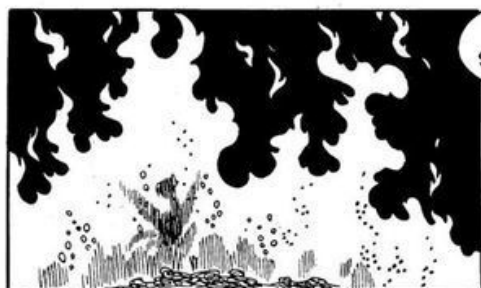












HOLY  
SMOKE!!



GEE! GOLLY!  
GOSH!  
WOW!



LORD NINIG!  
A BIRD IS  
RISING OUT OF  
THE FIRE!



AH...I REMEMBER MY  
NURSE TELLING ME THE  
STORY WHEN I WAS A  
CHILD. IT WAS ABOUT A  
GOLDEN BIRD OF IM-  
MORTALITY THAT LIVED  
BEYOND THE EASTERN  
SEA, SOMETHING ABOUT  
THOSE WHO DRANK HER  
BLOOD GAINING ETERNAL  
LIFE...

SHE WOULD  
DIVE INTO THE  
FLAMES AND  
BE REBORN.  
THIS  
HAS TO BE  
THAT  
BIRD!



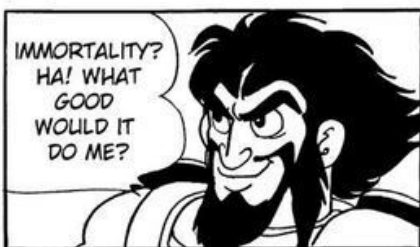
IT'S  
DANCING  
CRAZILY  
AMONG THE  
FLAMES!

THAT'S  
THE  
LEGENDARY  
PHOENIX!

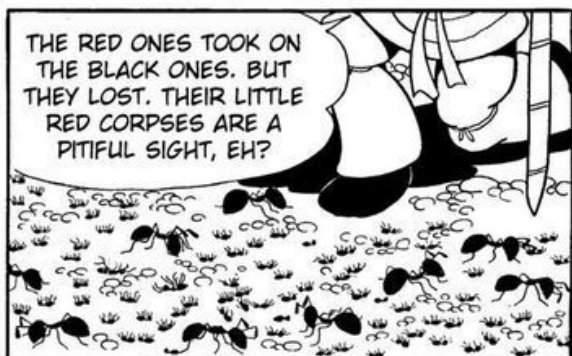
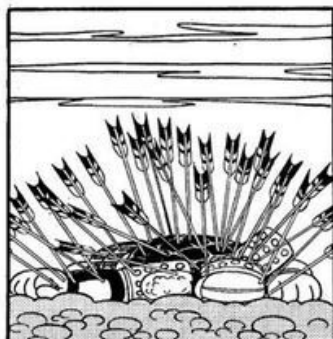




NO! LET HER BE. I'VE NO USE FOR THE PHOENIX.

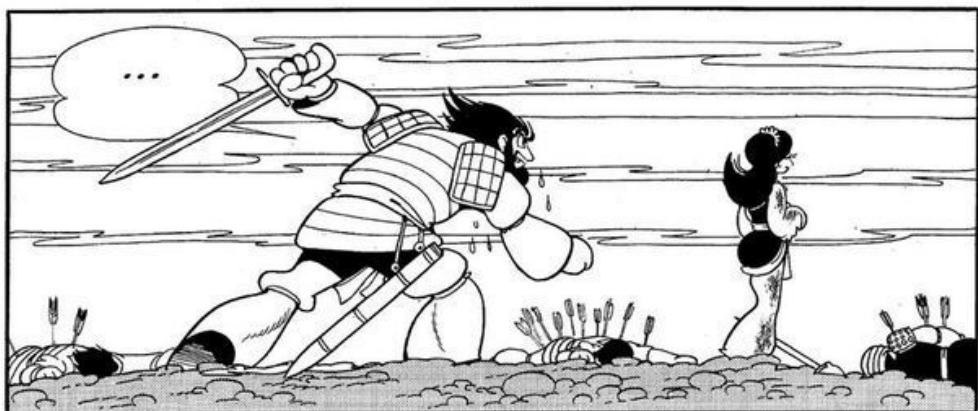


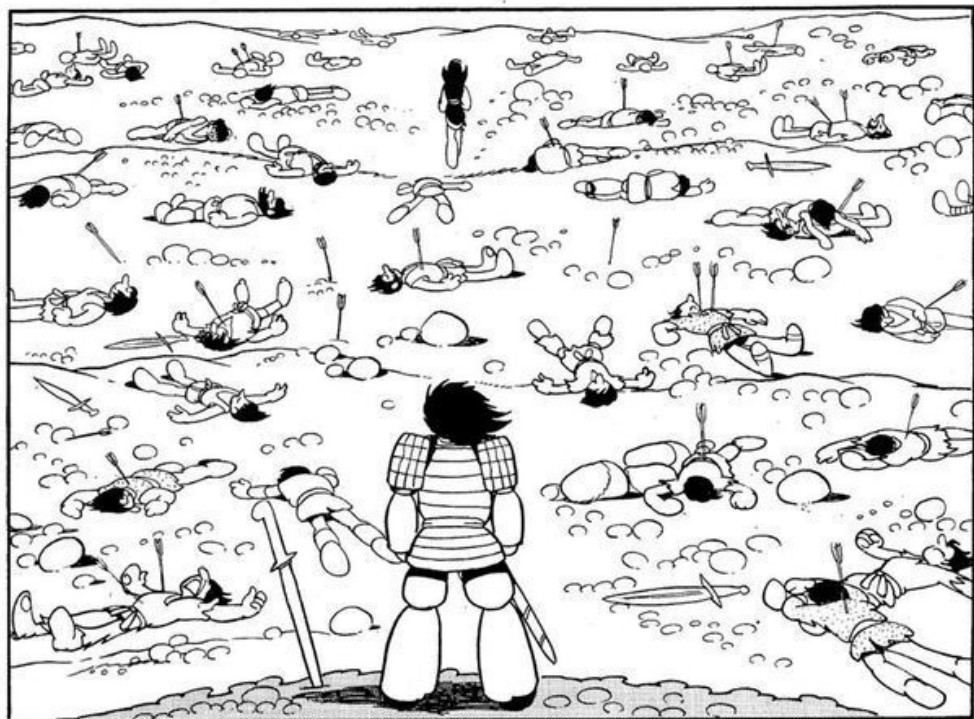
















HINAKU,  
LOOK! IT'S  
THE  
PHOENIX!!

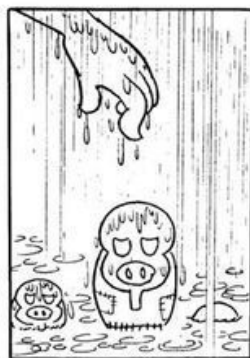


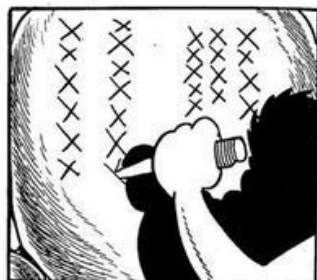
THE  
PHOENIX  
HAS  
RETURNED!

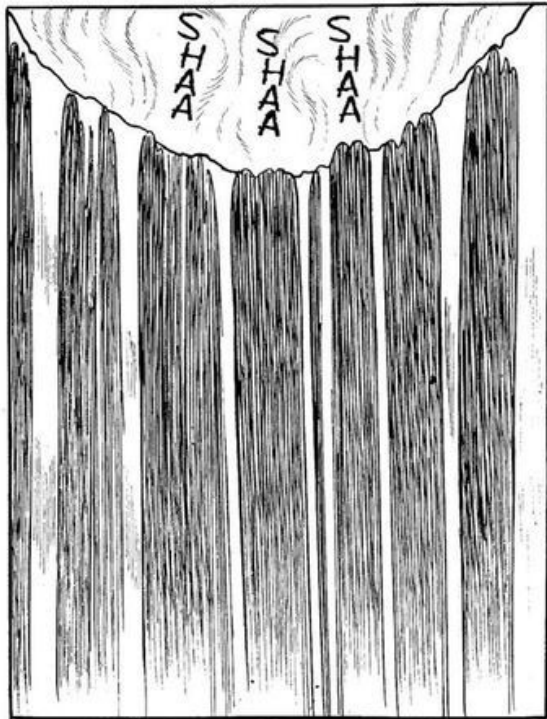
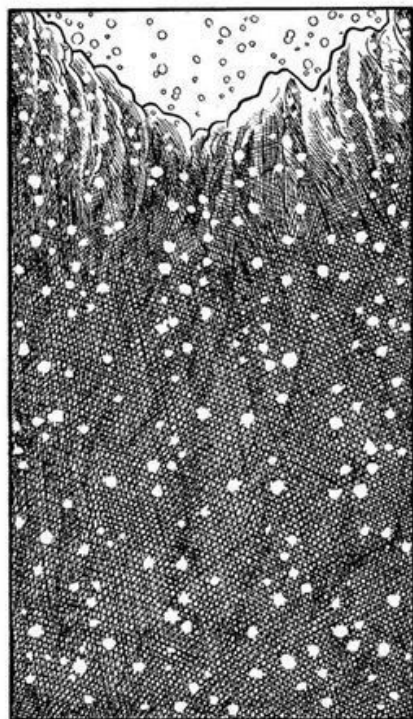
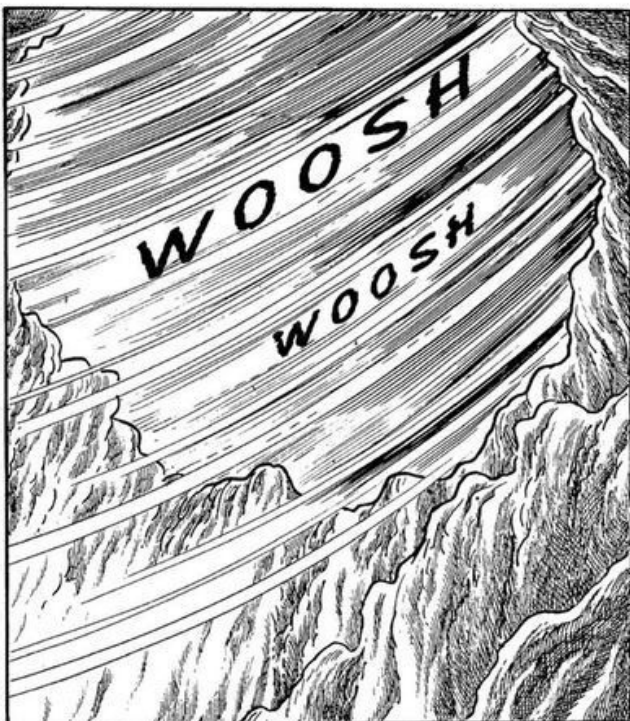
WAAH  
WAAH

WAAH

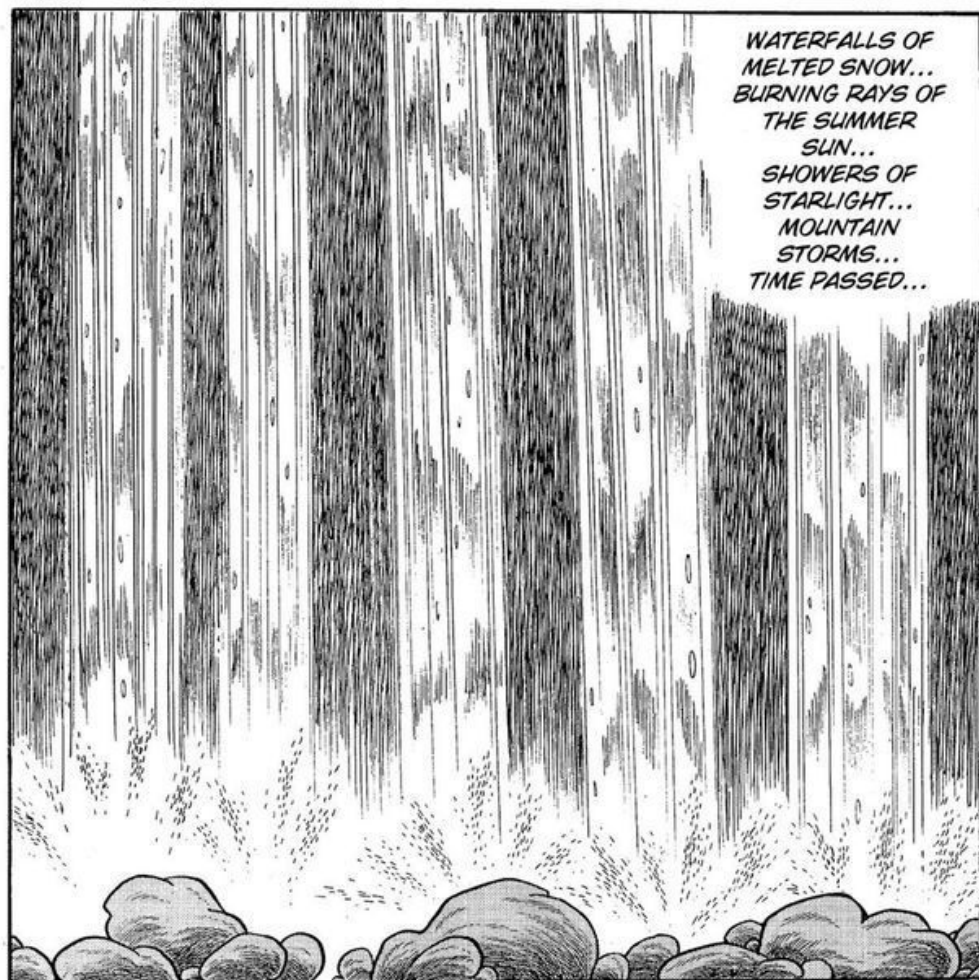




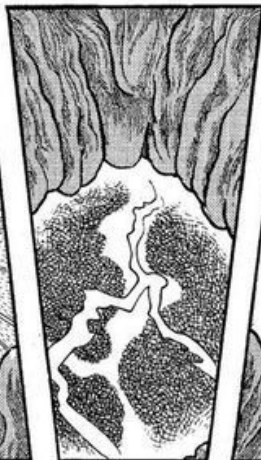
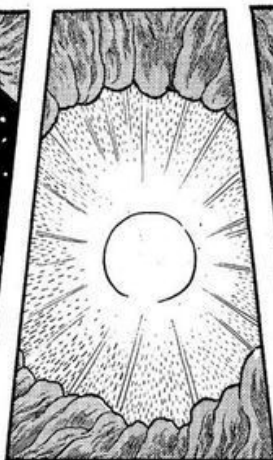








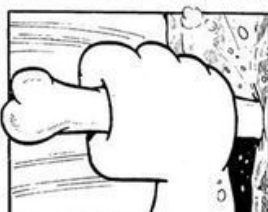
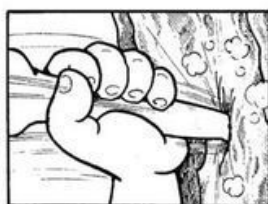
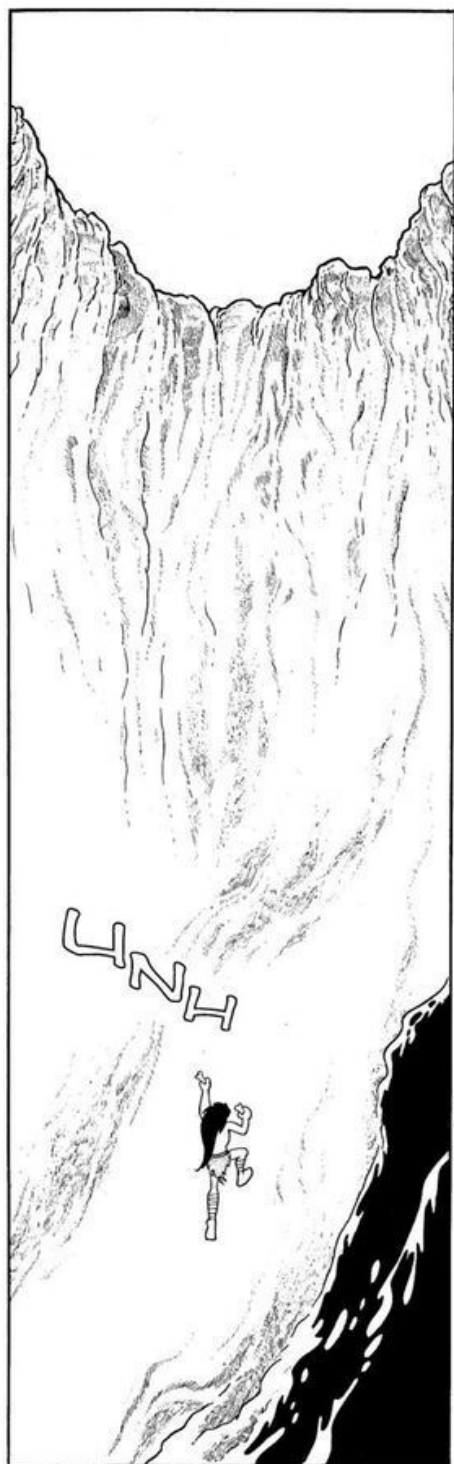
WATERFALLS OF  
MELTED SNOW...  
BURNING RAYS OF  
THE SUMMER  
SUN...  
SHOWERS OF  
STARLIGHT...  
MOUNTAIN  
STORMS...  
TIME PASSED...

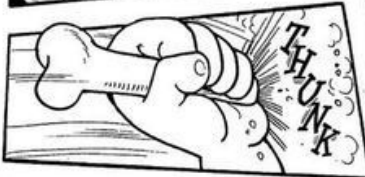




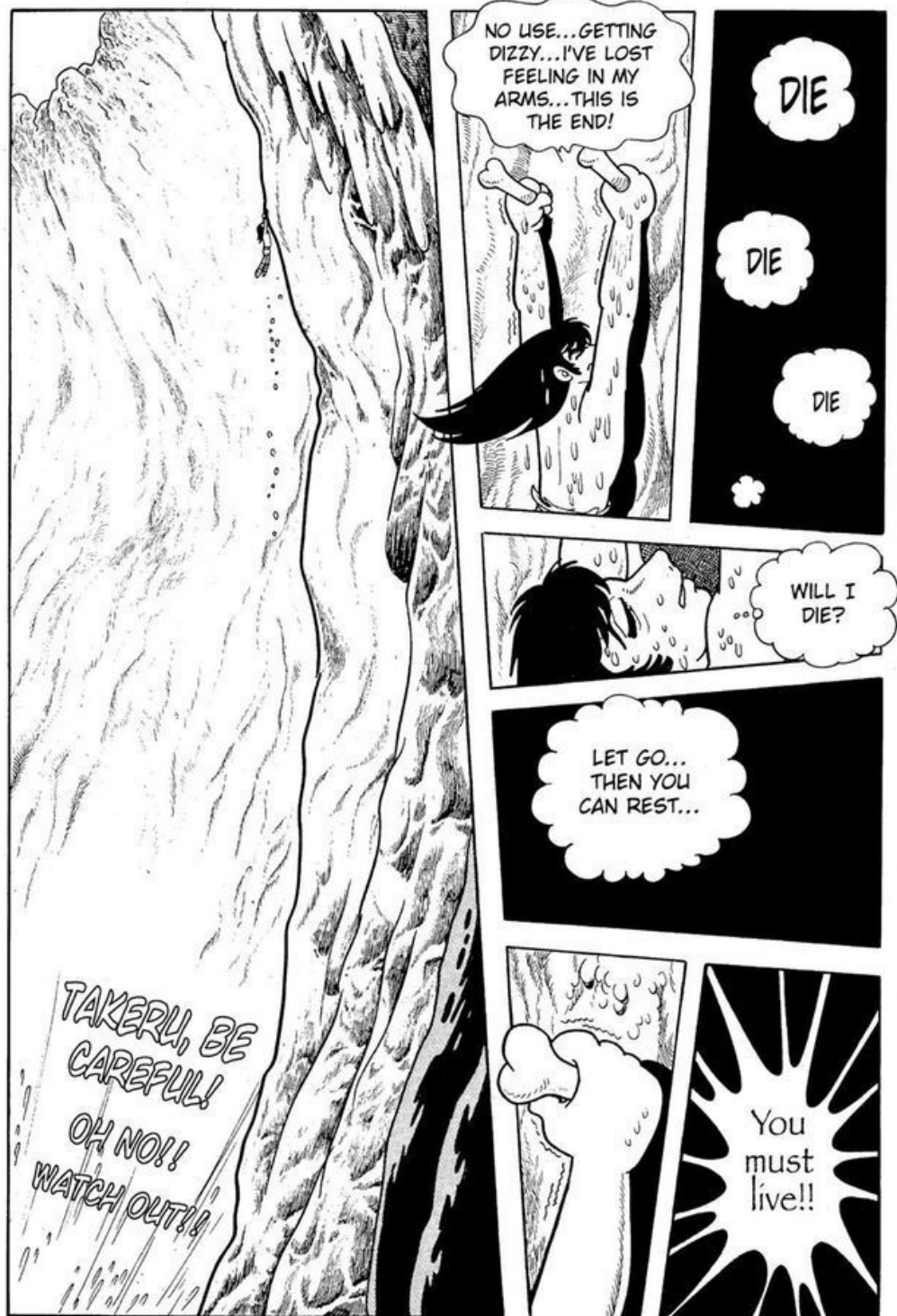








STILL...STILL NOT  
THE EDGE YET?!  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH  
ME? I DON'T SEEM TO  
HAVE ANY STRENGTH  
LEFT. THE MORE I  
CLIMB, THE HIGHER THE  
WALL BECOMES...

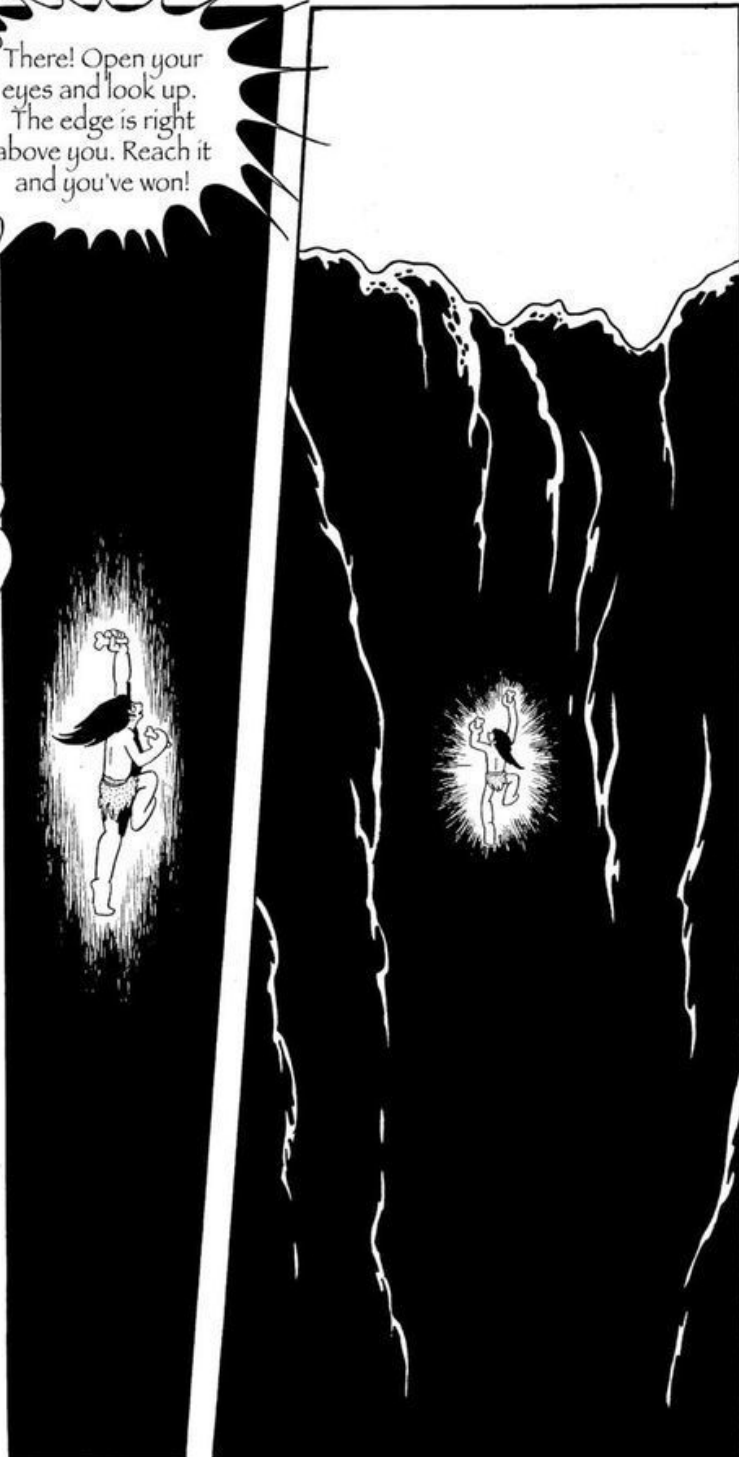


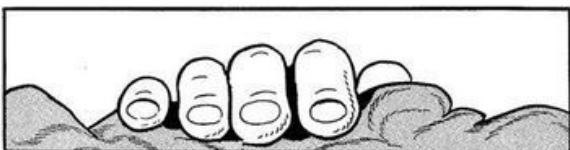






There! Open your eyes and look up.  
The edge is right above you. Reach it and you've won!







# ABOUT THIS EDITION OF PHOENIX: DAWN

The twelve self-contained yet interlinked stories that compose *Phoenix* (*Hi no tori* in Japanese, literally "Firebird") is considered by many to be the summit of Osamu Tezuka's artistic achievement. Tezuka himself referred to *Phoenix* as his "life work." Painstakingly composed over a span of decades (initial versions appeared as early as 1954), serialized in a number of venues, and left incomplete with Tezuka's death in 1989, *Phoenix* represents Tezuka's ambitious attempt to push all he knew about the comics medium to address fundamental questions about existence.

All twelve stories in *Phoenix* are linked by the presence of the mythical bird, an immortal guardian of the universal life force. Read in order, the separate stories jump across time, alternating between a distant future and a distant past, converging on the present, with characters from one story being reincarnated in another. The existing twelve stories, totaling over three thousand pages of work, are sub-titled "Dawn," "Future," "Yamato," "Universe," "Hou-ou," "Resurrection," "Robe of Feathers," "Nostalgia," "Civil War," "Life," "Strange Beings," and "Sun."

This edition, *Phoenix: Dawn* (or in Japanese, *Reimeihen*), is an English translation of the first of the twelve *Phoenix* stories. "Dawn" was first serialized in 1967 in the monthly magazine *COM*, which was published by Tezuka as a venue to feature work too challenging or experimental for inclusion in mainstream manga magazines. The second volume of the series, *Phoenix: A Tale of the Future*, was published in English by Viz Comics. A 27-page excerpt from "Hou-ou" appears in English in Frederik L. Schodt's *Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*.



# A Journey through Time and Space: An Overview of the Complete *Phoenix* Saga

The complete *Phoenix* saga is a story about mankind that features a historical-narrative structure unlike anything that has come before it. The first volume depicts the dawn of civilization. The second volume jumps to the far future. The setting for the third story shifts back to early history, and so on, back and forth, from past to future; the amplitude decreases as past and future converge to meet in the present.

## Dawn (1967) 240-270 A.D.

The era of Queen Himiko of the Yamatai Koku. The work quotes from the accounts of the *Gishiwajinden*. Also uses accounts from the legend of *Jinmu Tousei*.



The scene in the Amano Iwato myth where Himiko compares herself to Amaterasu-Omikami and a solar eclipse occurs.

## Yamato (1968-69) 320-350 A.D.

Based on the legend of Yamato-takeru-no-mikoto. The dates above were inferred from the account of Old Man Takeru, and from information in *Dawn*.



Disguised as a woman, Prince Yamato Oguno approaches the Chieftain of the Kumaso and stabs him. As told in the Kiki myth, the prince gets the name "Takeru" from his opponent right before he dies.

## Hou-ou (1969-70) 720-752 A.D.

The complicated drama of the spirit of two Buddhist sculptors. Set in the Nara Period (710-794) during the national enterprise of the construction of the Great Buddha. Here, the Hou-ou (a Chinese myth) is the Phoenix.



Akanemaru, who has been ordered by the authorities to be in charge of the construction and design of the Great Buddha, is shocked when the statue sheds tears. The workers become frightened, and the bizarre phenomenon halts construction.

## Robe of Feathers (1971) 937-941 A.D.



The spirit of a fisherman is bewitched by the beauty of the woman and he hides her clothes...

A sci-fi version of the Hagoromo Legend of Miho no Matsubara in Enshu (modern day Shizuoka). Set during Taira no Masakado's rebellion which occurred during the Heian Period (898-1185).

The spirit of a woman swimming in the ocean is captured by the beauty of the white sand and green pine.

## Civil War (1978-80) 1172-1189 A.D.

The time of the Genpei Kassen (War between the Taira and the Genji) after the fall of the Heishi (Taira Clan). Using the *Heike Monogatari* and *Gikeiki* as a backdrop, this story depicts "combat" as the fate of living things.



Kiso Yoshinaka defeats the Heishi and takes control of the capital. He cuts down the famous monk Myoun. He came to the capital because he is after the Phoenix.

## Strange Beings (1981) 1468-1498 A.D.

The Sengoku Period (1482-1558). Sakonnosuke, the heir of General Yagi Iemasa cuts down the nun, Yaobikuni, who seems to be 800 years old. But she doesn't realize the true relationship between herself and the nun.

The banner bearer is saying that "now" is the beginning of the Sengoku Wars and they are in the middle of the Onin Rebellion. In other words they are in a time before Sakonnosuke was born!



## Sun (1986-88) 663-672 A.D.

The story begins after the defeat of the Japan-Kudara alliance at Hakusukinoe and Japan's withdrawal from the Korean peninsula, and ends with the struggle for the imperial throne during the Jinshin Rebellion.



Emperor Kobun, formerly called Otomo no Miko, is the cousin of Takachi no Miko, who is the son of Oama no Miko.

## Future (1967-68)

3404 A.D.-infinity

The end of the future. Mankind is in decline and has become very conservative. The earth is run down and faces devastation. Eventually a nuclear war breaks out causing the end of everything.

The Yamato Central Main Building Megalopolis. Yamato is one of the five remaining underground cities of mankind.



## Universe (1969)

2577 A.D.

In Orion, a sub-light speed rocket heading towards earth crashes into a meteorite. The ship becomes unable to fly and four people manage to escape, including Saruta and Nana.



Each of the passengers escapes in an individual escape pod. However the pods only have enough food for half a year and enough air for a year and a half. Possibilities of survival are...

## Resurrection

(1970-71) 2482-3344 A.D.

In the year 3344, Prof. Saruta lands on the moon. He meets and acquires Robita in his final form. Spanning 860 years, the end of this episode goes beyond *Universe* and close to the beginning of *Future*.

Robita and this rocket also make appearances in *Future*, where Robita stops Rock and then gets shot by him.



## Nostalgia (1976-78)

Indeterminate (approx. 25th century)

A Japanese woman named Romy establishes a civilization and history for the formerly uninhabited planet, Eden-17. Her husband dies an unnatural death, but the life she carries inside her...



The spaceship is headed for Eden 17. The shiny object in the foreground is its sun. The planet is surrounded by a revolving ring of space dust held there by gravity.

## Life (1980)

2155-2170 A.D.

Human clones are being created. It's all for high ratings and a public-killing TV game show called *Clone Man Hunt*.

Animal clones were created for food. Human clones are created for a TV show—the cloning company president speaks as a sponsor. A terrifying plan for a TV show!



## Sun (1986-88)

2008 A.D.

The "Light Tribe" acquired the Phoenix in space. However, they turn it into an icon and come to control society through religion. Non-believers are called "shadows" and are chased out to live underground.

The head temple of the "Light Tribe." A young shadow boy named Suguru endeavors to climb the great tower and steal the Phoenix.



# ABOUT THE ARTIST



**T**he Osaka-born Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989) has been long regarded in his native Japan as a cultural icon and the single artist most responsible for the creation of Japan's vast manga and anime culture. He began to draw shortly after WWII, working on short gag strips. In 1947 Tezuka had his first big hit, *Shintakarajima* (New Treasure Island), a 200-page comic drawn when Tezuka was still a medical student that revolutionized the "decompressed storytelling" style that is now the birthright of all Japanese comics.

Tezuka went on, in both short and long narratives, to master and/or invent virtually every genre of the comics form—sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, spy, horror, historical drama, political drama, transforming robots, Shakespearean adaptation, even sex-ed comics—including pioneering the *shojo* (girls') manga genre with *Ribon no Kishi* (aka *Princess Knight*, 1953-6). In 1952 Tezuka created his most beloved work, the robot-boy sci-fi series *Tetsuwan Atom* (aka *Astro Boy*). Other popular Tezuka works include the talking-animal saga *Jungle Taitei* (aka *Kimba, the White Lion*, 1950-4) and the outlaw-surgeon adventure series *Black Jack* (1973-84).

By the mid-sixties Tezuka was a pioneering animator as well as the most popular artist in history of Japanese comics, yet he continued to fervently reinvent manga forms. The early volumes of *Phoenix*, which began to be serialized in the pages of Tezuka's experimental *COM* magazine in 1967, were Tezuka's bold attempt to expand comics' artistic and demographic reach. Among Tezuka's finest works in this high literary mode are *Buddha* (1972-83), a biography of the religious teacher, and the complex and moving WWII saga *Adolf* (1983-5). In the West, Tezuka's reputation and renown continues to grow. The recent hit anime *Metropolis* (2001) is based on one of Tezuka's earliest works from 1949.